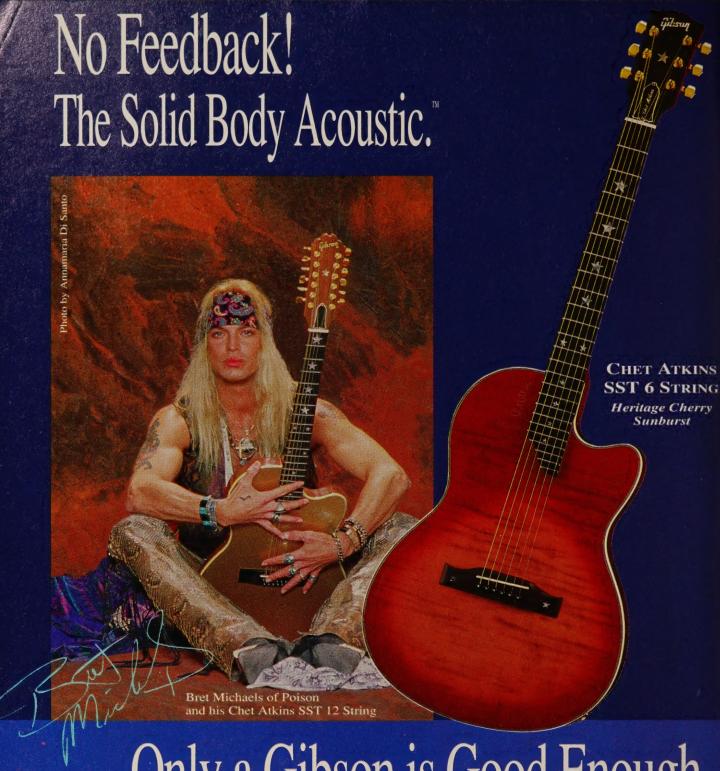


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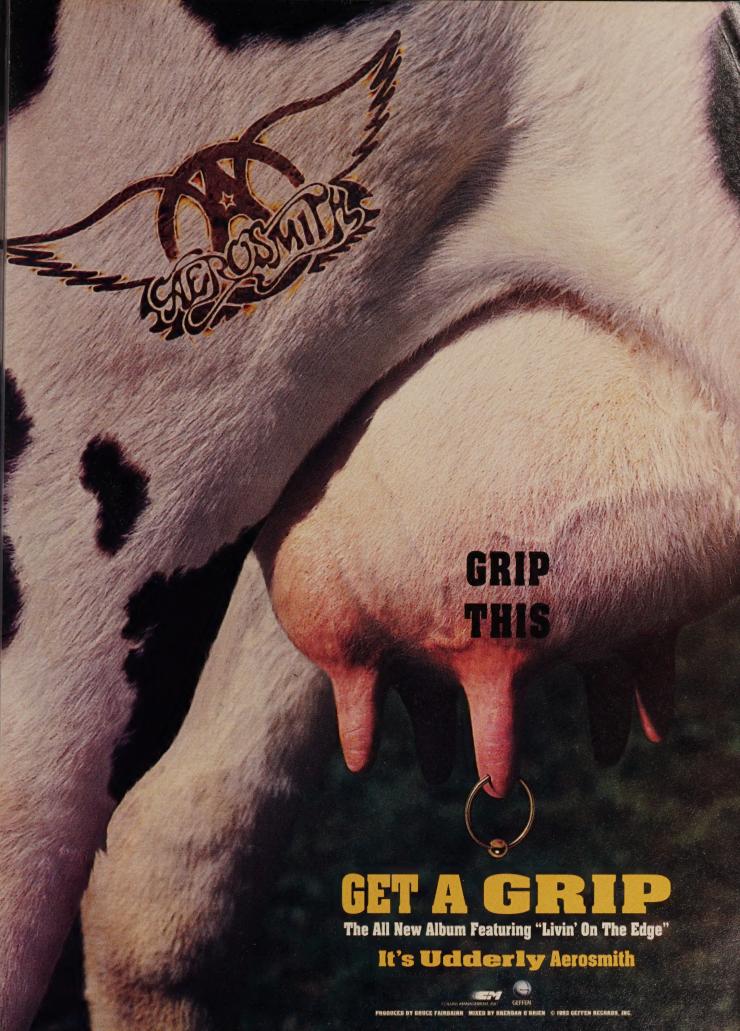
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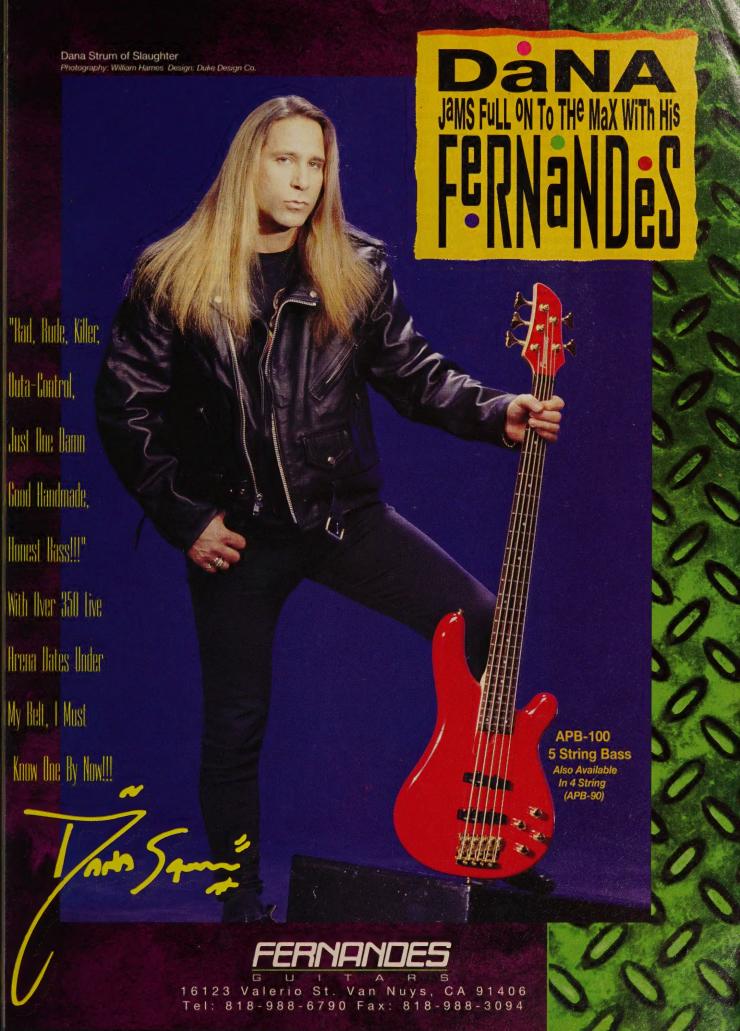
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ing "commercial," "corporate" and "mainstream"). I agree that it makes it more enjoyable to really understand the music you're listening to, and alternative music has very relevant messages. But I also feel that music should be appreciated for what it is, an art form and entertainment. I really enjoy the music of Pearl Jam, Soundgarden and Alice In Chains, and resent having people say "it's not MY music." I am as much an "owner" of this music as any grungedressing 20 year old.

This letter is for Jason Newsted—the best

bass player and person in the world. Jason,

Chrissy Seward Columbus, OH you are the sole reason I like Metallica. The day you performed in Dallas was and will always will be the most exciting day of my life. I love you so much, I would marry you and have all your kids. Your are Prince Charming. My dream in life is to meet you someday—you are totally awesome and drop-dead gorgeous even though you shaved off your hair (why the hell did you do that?). Anyways I just wanted you to know that you have a diehard fan from Dallas who loves you.

Sasha E

I think the person that reviewed Nirvana's **Incesticide** in the April '93 issue needs to listen to it a couple more times. If that

doesn't help them, they'll really never like it. In case you haven't guessed, I love Nirvana, mostly **Bleach** and **Incesticide**. And for those that have **Nevermind**, after song # I2 on the CD, there's a secret song called *Endless, Nameless*. Also I think that people who write in citicizing bands 'cause of the way they act offstage or do things in their "personal" lives should stop writing. You know it sucks that people have nothing better to do than criticize people. Instead of criticizing bands you don't like, praise the ones you do like. Oh, and **Hit Parader** rules.

Don't change!

Sean Salem, OR P.S. Seattle rules the world!!!!

I like how Bret Michaels of Poison and Axl Rose of Guns N' Roses bragged how they got rid of C.C. DeVille and Steven Adler because they had drug problems, but they went through the same thing themselves. They should rub their noses in their own dirt. How can they act like they're so innocent? It's unfair. Poison, you made C.C. DeVille feel like an outcast because you were all born in Pennsylvania and he was born in Brooklyn. No wonder he's got a drug problem! I guess Axl Rose, Duff and Slash never included Steven Adler in their activities. They played favorites among the band members. Not everybody is perfect. Definitely not Axl Rose and Bret Michaels, especially how they act.

Kim Hiichty

Regarding your feature on Metallica (Feb. 1993 issue), Lars said he wonders why other bands change between albums. Why did he overlook Metallica changing between their last two albums? Why doesn't he explain that? I'm not complaining about their new sound because I love it! In the feature you also stated that Metallica is "the biggest, best, most successful band." ! have to disagree with that. I don't think you're giving Def Leppard the credit they deserve. You said that all of Metallica's releases have sold over 21 million worldwide, but Def Leppard has sold more than that with only their last three releases in the United States alone! But Def Leppard's work is most important because it broke down barriers that were keeping metal from expanding in the early '80s. Def Leppard gave metal a good name and made it more accessible to the public. The fact is many of today's successful bands wouldn't be around if Def Leppard had not paved the way. As long as Def Leppard are around, they will always be the biggest band in the world! Cheers to Def Leppard. Rest in peace, Steve.... We will always remember you.

Chris Requena Goleta, CA

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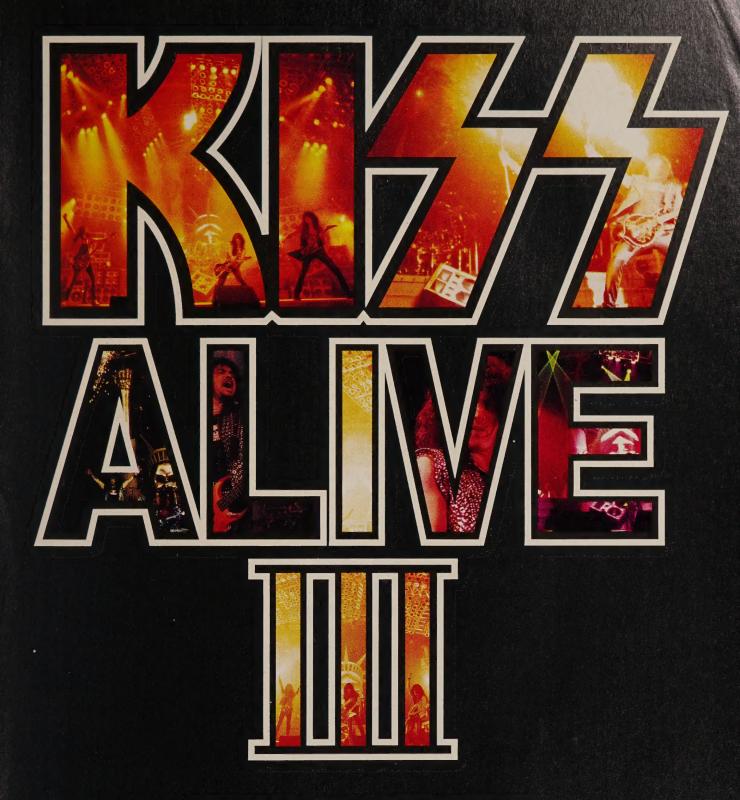
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## THE INFORMATION CENTER

here still seems to be a question as to whether or not Metallica's proposed live album will ever see the light of day. After some careful analysis forces within the band's camp expressed the belief that an in-concert disc at this point in the group's career would slow the commercial momentum Metallica has generated over the last few years. Proof? All you've got to do is look at the less-than-spectacular recent showings made by live albums from such stellar bands as AC/DC, Iron Maiden and Van Halen. By the way the members of Metallica still, supposedly, want the live disc released, but they are carefully considering the advice given by their inhouse confidants.

Dy now you are probably aware that Jani Lane and Warrant have parted ways. While the split caught few by surprise—following, as it does, the disappointing performance of the band's latest album, **Dog Eat Dog**, the fact

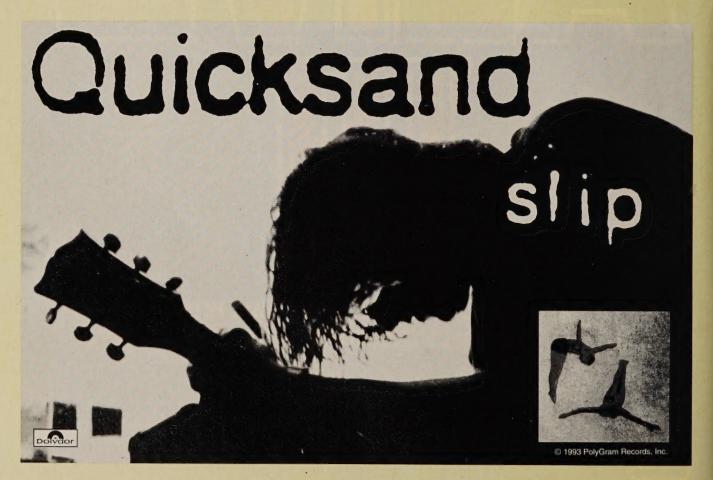
that both Jani and Warrant hope to remain with their current record label is a bit surprising. The Warrant guys hope to add a new singer/songwriter within the next few months, while Lane plans on starting his first solo LP by year's end.

So you think Aerosmith's video for Living On The Edge looks good? Well, it ought to. Sources say the vid cost \$750,000, making it one of the most expensive clips of all time. The fact is, however, that the song has failed to light many fires at either radio or MTV, making the Aeromsith boys second guess their next step. At the moment it looks like the second release will be Eat The Rich, perhaps the most "classic" Aeromsith song on the band's Get A Grip album.

Things seem to be getting mighty testy between former Led Zeppelin bandmates Robert Plant and Jimmy Page. While Page, who's currently rid-

ing high on the charts with his first outing with vocalist David Coverdale, insists that "everything will work out with Robert," Plant refuses to even comment about the Coverdale/Page project. When asked directly to offer a few words about his former guitarist's latest work, the usually verbose Plant offered a cutting "Sorry, but I can't hear you" response. In the past, Plant has referred to Coverdale (who insists he and Plant were once good buddies) as "David Coverversion," and as both Plant and Coverdale/Page plan U.S. tours to support their new albums, it's a safe bet more verbal sparks will fly.

TIDBITS & ASIDES: Is Kiss considering putting off any tour plans until their next studio album is released next spring?...Is Iron Maiden meeting with some unexpected problems in finding a replacement for Bruce Dickinson?... Has Rob Halford now officially left Judas Priest?





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#### BY RICH HINSON

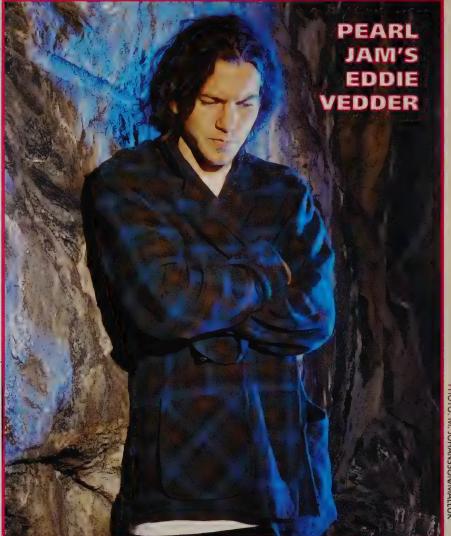
ach issue, we journey back in time to learn about the formative years of a rock and roll star, This month's time traveler is Pearl Jam's charismatic vocalist, Eddie Vedder.

Eddie Vedder is just another California surf bum. Nah, we don't mean that as any sort of put-down. But deep in his heart, Pearl Jam's charismatic vocalist would probably prefer to be catchin' a wave to just about anything else in life—with the exception of singing with his band, of course. In fact, the growing Vedder legend tells how his bud Jack Irons (now a member of Eleven, a band that has opened shows for Pearl Jam) received a call from P.J. guitarist Stone Gossard one day, soon after Vedder had sent a demo tape to the band. When asked where Vedder could be found, Irons told Gossard "in the water." Well, truth may be stranger than fiction, but once Pearl Jam managed to get Vedder onto dry land, they knew they had found the man they'd been looking for.

"I was the last guy to join the band," Vedder said. "I worked on a tape with Jack Irons, and on that tape we had songs like Alive. I sent it to Stone because I heard the band was looking for a singer. Before I knew it, I was up in Seattle and being asked to sing on the Temple Of The Dog record. It was really kind of hard for me to believe. Two years before that I was just a kid who loved rock and roll who'd try to sneak up front at whatever show was in town. Now I was being asked to be part of Pearl Jam, a really amazing band."

Despite the incredible success he's enjoyed with Pearl Jam (the band's debut LP, **Ten,** has now passed the five million copies sold plateau), one of Vedder's most endearing characteristics is his continual desire to maintain contact with the band's audience. Whether it's watching him stop and talk with fans before or after a show, or actually jumping among them during one of the band's incredible concert performances, it's easy to tell that Vedder isn't about to be caught up in any rock and roll "star trip"at least not yet.

"When I see the kids in the audience, I still see myself out there in the front row with them," he said. "I'm the one up on stage, with the room to move around and the voice to sing. I take what I do very seriously—there's a responsibility tied in with being up there. I sense their need, and I share it with them. If that means jumping down among them to add a little physical



Eddie Vedder: "It was really hard for me to believe that I was a member of a great band like Pearl Jam."

drama to the proceedings, that's what I'll do. The only problem I have is that I've learned the hard way that I've got to maintain my stamina. When I went to shows, it was a release, then I left. When you're a part of a band you've got to have that kind of energy every night."

Maintaining his energy level has apparently not proven too difficult for Vedder and bandmates Gossard (guitar), Mike McCready (guitar), Dave Abbruzzese (drums) and Jeff Ament (bass). As their fame has continued to escalate, thanks to radio and MTV playing the living daylights out of Alive, Even Flow and Jeremy, the band has begun to understand their evergrowing significance in the rock world, and so far they've refused to be caught up in the hype that has transformed so many other promising young acts into uncontrollable metal monsters.

"Maybe we started this band with a different set of goals than some other groups," Vedder said. "We never started with big dreams and big hopes. We didn't do this because we wanted to get rich. We all came together because we believed in

the kind of music we make. It was like we were brought together by fate. It really is a dream-come-true for me."

Now, as Pearl Jam continues work on their all important second album, Vedder knows that a new kind of pressure may soon envelope the band. While their initial success guarantees them the kind of artistic autonomy most bands can only wish for, their platinum-plus achievements will bring renewed focus on the band's next work. Already some have labelled Pearl Jam as America's answer to U2-a band with a social conscience that plays with heart-felt power and passion. Of course, this casts an unwitting Vedder in the role of "the new Bono"—a position Vedder scoffs at.

"I can't even consider anything beyond this band," he said. "If people want to make us bigger than we are, that's their problem not ours. We're not gonna get caught up in anything else—there's no reason to. We know enough about this business to understand what can happen. We're having too much fun to let that happen."

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Every now and then, a band like Pearl Jam or a movement like the "Seattle Scene" will come along and totally revolutionize rock and roll. More often though, bands release albums that draw heavily upon standard rock influences. This prompted us to ask your favorite rockers: What do you want to accomplish with your music?

We want to record 214 songs, and release them, that's our biggest goal. The Beatles recorded 213—I want to record 214. Our strength is in our songs. Chip Z'Nuff **Enuff Z'Nuff** 

Financially, I'm not worried about it. I used to have money worries, now I know that everything I have is exactly what I was meant to have. Things are exactly as they're supposed to be at this exact moment in space and time. I was very much obsessed with financial security before, which was making me like a crab in a bucket. In trying to get out of the bucket, I would grab onto people and pull them down as if they were other crabs in the bucket. As soon as you get to the top of the bucket, someone else pulls you down, and that's the whole mentality of being a status seeker and worrying about how much money you have. I have a house. I have a son. I have a wife, two dogs, two cars, a motorcycle, I have a brilliant band, I have great equipment and a lucrative recording contract. What more could

> **Dave Mustaine** Megadeth

I just want to be content. To me, being content is keeping this band going the way we're doing now. We're not in a hurry to do anything we don't want to do. We're just writing songs and making music, and that's what makes us happy. There's a lot of unity in our band. We split everything, everyone has their hand in a circle, and that's what makes us happy. If one guy is poor, we're all poor. We're friends on and off the stage.

**Shannon Hoon Blind Melon** 

I'd like to just make people happy. Seeing people that listen to your music, that like it, really makes me feel good. It gives them a little lift, it makes them laugh a little bit.

That's entertaining people, and that's what I want to do.

> **Eric Brittingham** Cinderella

My style is old school. I'd just like to touch somebody with it. I want somebody to say, "Wow, he must have really meant it when he played that!" It's not like I sat down and played a riff or a solo---I

Steve Vai: He has some lofty musical goals!

want to reach people with my music. Sometimes our music touches our fans. That's what I'm talking about, the whole deal of emotion and feeling. Making a lot of noise is fun too.

> Scotti Hill **Skid Row**

I want it to go on forever and just write, write, write, write. We're fans of music and we enjoy music. Ever since I was a kid, I've always had music in my house, I had the Beatles shoved down my throat in the '60s when I was growing up. My father constantly made the effort to push me in the direction of music. He grew up in a heavy industrial environment. He had to have a

trade under his belt. Any kind of creative part of their personalities were stamped out, BAMI you can't do this. He did his best to share it with me and now I want to share it with the world.

> Ian Astbury The Cult

Musically, we never have a boundary. This record has expanded what Extreme is all about. I want Extreme to be a rock band in the vein that The Who were considered a rock band. Queen was a band that did anything they wanted to do and they were never questioned if they were a rock band or not. Aerosmith was great too. And AC/DC do it. The goal of Extreme is to put emphasis on the songs. I want our albums to go past the fad of "now." You can go back and put on any Queen record you want to, and they're current, they're time-

> less pieces. We want to make Extreme music and not just 1990s rock and roll. The band's going to

grow, thank God.

**Gary Cherone** Extreme

What do I want to accomplish with my music? Everything!

Steve Vai

We'd like to be as big as we can get. We have something to say, we're not just a rock band. We have integrity as musicians, as well as that rock star side. We like our craft, we like writing songs, we like touring, we like playing, we like the studio. If we weren't doing that, we'd be doing nothing. Following people around on the street going, "Just a dollar, gimmie just a dollar.

Nick Walsh Slik Toxik

I have this standard in my head of what I would like to hear. My goal is to finally write that song that's really in my head. That's my goal. I don't know what will happen after I write it, I might die.

> **Doug Pinnick** King's X

As you listen to any of the music I've been involved with, it's going to make you remember a little bit about the past, it's going to make you celebrate the future. We're going to talk about people and places that you know, and some that you don't. It's going to work directly on your pelvis and in your eyeballs, just as far as general blood flow goes. My music is folk music in the sense that it's about us, it's about feelings, places that we're all about. And it might open up some new horizons. Maybe a new way to listen to rock music. Maybe somebody out there, maybe some musician will take up the flack.

David Lee Roth

# We've Got Some Really Big News.



Actually, this news is bigger than big, it's huge. Export Pro for '93, in a word...change. We've changed and added so many exciting features there is simply nothing in its class that comes close.

Let's talk versatility. Export Pro now offers kits with 20", 22" and 24" bass drums. We've also changed kit configurations to offer a wider variety of popular set-ups.

Probably the biggest change is in the mounting system. All Export Pro mounted toms now feature our new Integrated Mounting System or I.M.S. for short. This

allows the drum to be suspended without the mounting hardware in contact with the shell. So what does this mean? The less contact, the more the drum is allowed to resonate, and these drums really sing.

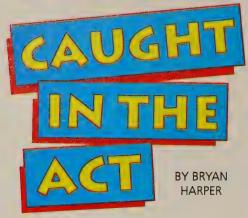
We've also changed and redesigned the hardware and added some new pieces like a bass drum mounted ride cymbal arm on some kits, and a new double bass drum pedal just to name a few.

Check out Export Pro for '93 at your local Pearl dealer. News this big needs to be seen...not just heard.



The new I.M.S. Mounting System.





Attending a Soundgarden concert is like taking a step back in time. For those of us too young to remember the '60s, the sounds, sights and smells that permeate every arena these Seattle rockers appear harken back to another time—a time when rock was pure, the people had the

"power" and an unmistakble feeling of camaraderie filled the hearts of everyone in attendance. In some ways Soundgarden would have fit in at Woodstock, but in other ways their heavy grunge style is as state-of-the-art as you can get. · Perhaps that's part of the musical appeal of vocalist Chris Cornell, guitarist Kim Thayil, bassist Ben Sheppard and drummer Matt Cameron; there is that unique fusion of rock styles that is both timeless and ageless.

A half hour before showtime, everywhere around the packed arena the milling crowd could be seen killing time in their own individual way. Some kids were downing cans of beer they had sneaked past security in giant

gulps. Then, as soon as one can was emp-

tied, the next opened, the empty one would be crushed in one deft blow against the

drinker's forehead. It looked like it must have hurt, but from the sounds of laughter emanating from this happy little group, obviously too much beer had already been consumed to even worry about such mundane matters as pain. In another area, two girls dressed in identical Soundgarden Tshirts unfurled a banner proclaiming their fondness for Cornell in no uncertain terms. "CHRIS, WE WANT YOU" the banner read.

Backstage, the same loose, friendly atmosphere that permeated the arena could be sensed. In one corner of the band's dressing area, Thayil sat, guitar in hand, running through a variety of preconcert drills of his own design while Cornell talked with some of the band's crew about taking care of some on-stage problems that existed the night before. In stark contrast to so many bands who seem tight and almost unapproachable minutes before going on stage, the members of Soundgarden are intense, but loving every minute of it.

"We look forward to this so much." Thayil said with a big grin. "This is the best part of the day; getting ready for the show then getting on and playing. That's why we do everything else-the travel, the interviews, even the albums. Playing live is

quickened as they neared the stage platform and without missing a step they were handed their stage instruments by their conscientious crew and blew right into their first number.

For the next hour, Soundgarden rocked and rolled with power and intensity. Their riffs seemed to shake their building's foundation, and Cornell's dynamic voice and stage persona quickly turned the evening into a true celebration of heavy metal's inherent magic. Drawing material equally from their two albums (Soundgarden and Badmotorfinger), the band proved Thayil's word's to be correct— Soundgarden may be a great album band, but live on stage, the music attains a vibrancy and spontaneity that adds a new dimension to every note they perform. Unlike groups who are little more than studio creations, designed

what SOUNDGARDEN PHOTO: JEFFREY MAYER more for their looks than for their brought us all talent, night-in-and-night-out Soundgarden

together in the first place."

Almost as soon as he completed his last

band in rock and roll. "It's kind of 'what you see is what you get' with us," Cornell said as he relaxed

prove they just might be the most. "real"

briefly after the show. "We've always believed the music should be the focus of the concert, not some laser show. There's nothing wrong with entertaining the people, but they've come to see you and hear your music—not see some stage gimmicks. Hopefully when the fans leave our show, they feel they've been fully entertained."

Chris Cornell: "The music should be the focus of the concert not some laser show."

> sentence, the guitarist rose and joined his bandmates as they paraded out of the dressing room and towards the darkened stage. As they walked, the crowd's cheers could be heard as they wafted through the backstage walls. Rhythmic applause soon followed as both the fans and the band built to a fever pitch. The group's walk



## Asphalt Ballet\*pigs



THE HARD-HITTING NEW ALBUM

FEATURING THE TRACK

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BY ROB ANDREWS

#### FREAK OF NATURE

Mike Tramp is a hard guy to figure out. Most rock stars who, in a two year span, go from headlining arenas world-over made some music that I'm very proud of over the years. But, unfortunately, that group became an unhappy situation for me. People in a band must get along—they've got to be friends. There was too much tension in White Lion during the last year. I'm still very close with (guitarist) Vito Bratta, but I can't say I'm unhappy to be away from White Lion. Now I'm making new music with new musicians. It's different."

Problems started to develop within White Lion soon after the release of their multiplatinum smash, **Pride**. Following a yearlong road stint that saw the band evolve into a solid tour attraction, pressure was placed on the group to rush into the studio to record their next LP, **Big Game**. Despite a semi-hit single, *Little Fighter*, the album proved to be a major commercial disappointment, with Tramp taking most of the heat for its failure due to his reliance on overtly political lyrics. From there things rapidly went down hill, and by the time the group's final effort, **Mane** 

doing. I was also very unhappy with a few people at our record label, and I had no desire to work with them again. So I said goodbye to the band and the label, and I started something new. The first thing I did was call a few musicians who I knew from back home, who had come over to America with me from Denmark. We had never worked together professionally, but we had always talked about it. From there the band just fell together—a total bunch of freaks. This group truly is a Freak Of Nature."

At the moment Tramp still isn't exactly sure what Freak Of Nature's first step will be. While the band has been courted by some major labels, Tramp may choose to release the group's debut disc as a six-song independent EP. But if the big money is dangled under his nose, he admits he may find it hard to refuse. In the mean time, he and his freaks are slogging away in clubs in and around the L.A. area, serving as their own

roadies and



their own gear in clubs wouldn't be smiling ear-to-ear about their career progress. But don't tell that to Mr. Tramp! Only a year

after the breakup of White Lion the Danish dandy is back in action with his new group Freak Of Nature. It's certainly back to basics for Tramp

and his new bandmates, guitarists Dennis Chick and Kenny Korade, drummer Johnny Haro and bassist Jerry Best but that doesn't faze the good-looking vocalist one bit. As far as he's concerned, he's finally making the kind of music he feels totally happy with, and perhaps even more importantly, he's having a great time doing it.

"I'm not about to say anything bad about White Lion because I poured my heart and soul into that band," Tramp said. "We Attraction, was released in 1990, it seemed inevitable that the end was near. Open feuding existed between Tramp and bandmates Greg D'Angelo and James Lomenzo, and the group's American

"I poured my heart and soul into White Lion, but that group became an unhappy situation."

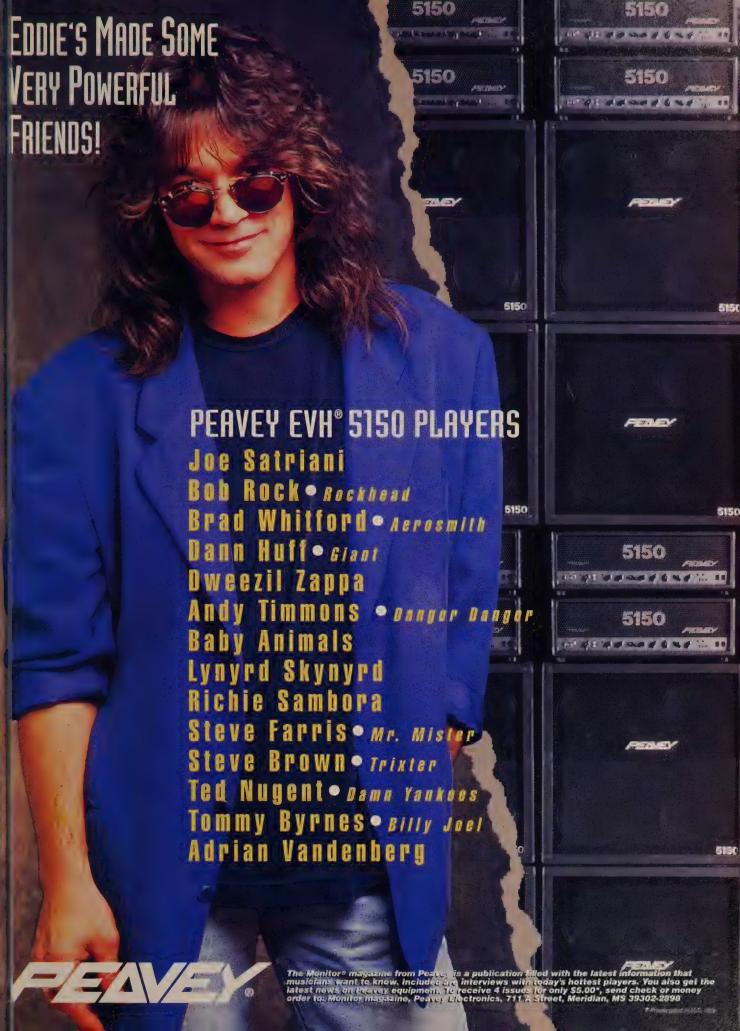
tour quickly dissolved into chaos when both D'Angelo and Lomenzo were fired and quickly replaced by session players. It was at that time that Tramp knew he had to make a career change.

"I had told everyone that if the last album didn't do well I was going to have to do something different," he said. "I poured all my energy into it. There was nothing more I could do. We were bailing out a sinking ship, and that's not something I enjoy

"I'm in a very good position," he said.
"The major labels are interested, but the indies are making some very intriguing offers as well. I want to do things right this time. I have a lot of faith in this band. The

music will surprise some people because it's much heavier than anything we did in White Lion. It's much closer to Nirvana or

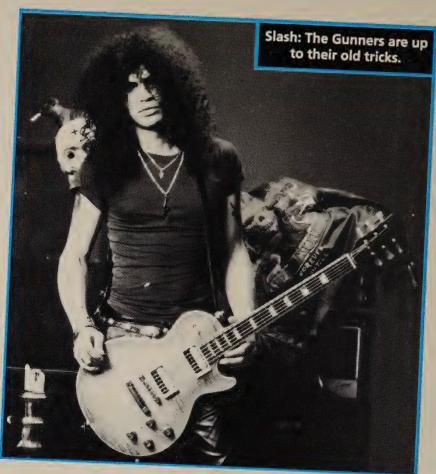
Soundgarden than it is White Lion in terms of its impact. But the bottom line is that it's rock and roll, and I think it's very good rock and roll. I'm sorry for the millions of people who supported White Lion that the band isn't around any more. We made some very goo'd music that I will always be proud of. But I ask those same people to give Freak Of Nature a chance. I know they'll enjoy what they hear very much. It's rock music for the '90s."





There's a bit more to the story about Bruce Dickinson leaving Iron Maiden than you may already know. As you are probably aware, the leather-lunged singer will be splitting from Maiden at the end of their latest tour—probably in mid-fall. But what you don't know is that at that time the ever-creative Mr. Dickinson will be working on a series of new projects, including a book, a new solo album, and possibly a movie script. "We knew this day would come with Bruce," bassist Steve Harris said. "But we didn't expect it so soon. We thought when his kids were a little older he'd want more time at home. But Maiden will continue on, that's for sure."

Guns N' Roses continues to be embroiled in controversy. Following the band's guitar smashing stage antics last March (after which they had to cancel a



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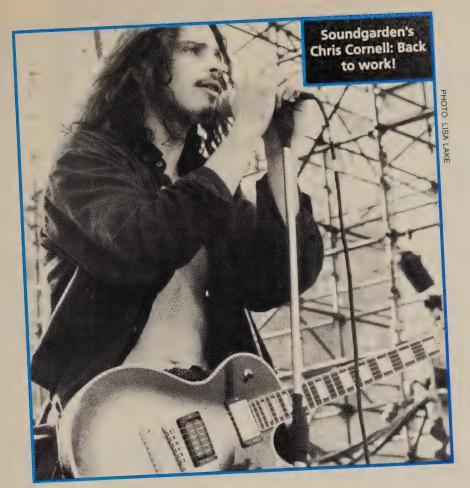
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number of shows until they found a new sound man) the group continued to astound critics and mystify their fans with some of Axl Rose's on stage pronouncements. Especially after word leaked out through the press that he had split with long-time love Stephanie Seymour, Axl's recent "good boy" behavior took a decided turn for the worse.

Soundgarden's Chris Cornell reports that the band is almost ready to begin work on their follow-up to the highly successful **Badmotorfinger**. The singer says that the band's next record won't be a radical departure from the group's previous efforts, but that at this point there are definitely going to be a few new twists and turns. "We never want to be considered a predictable band," Cornell said. "So we just let whatever inspires us keep everything fresh. We're not trying to be different just to be different, but things do tend to happen along those lines for this band."

Look for the reunited Black Sabbath (featuring Ozzy Osbourne, Tony Iommi, Geezer Butler and Bill Ward) to be on the road in December, promoting a new album the band hopes to have completed by the late fall. Of course, the plans for the new disc could fall through, leaving the unit to tour behind their legendary array of hits. "I think the album







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will get done," lommi said. "We're having a lot of fun being together, and everyone is very focused on making some new music.

Is the world ready for a Dokken reunion? Some three years after Don Dokken, George Lynch, Jeff Pilson and Mick Brown split apart under less-thanamicable terms, word on the street has it that the boys are ready to patch up their differences and try it again. Perhaps this new-found "love" springs from the fact that none of the former platinum band's members enjoyed more than a brush with success on their own. In the mean time, look for a solo album from Lyncha record designed to give the Guitar God enough room to really show what he can do.



#### Is the world ready for a Dokken reunion?

Metallica are completing mixes on their upcoming live album, which they plan to release within the next few months (though there is still supposedly some discussion within the group's camp about the advisability of unleashing such a venture at this time). Why did the Metalli-men decide that now was the right time for a live collection? Easy, according to guitarist Kirk Hammett. "I think we were all real pleased with the way we were playing on this tour," he said. "Having a live album is kind of a cool thing because it's still a lot different than doing a live video. It's something people might play over and over againreal loud."

New pop Jon Bon Jovi (his wife, Dorothea, had their first child in May) says that he never refused to hire Jackyl because vocalist Jesse James Dupree cursed on stage—a claim Dupree offered in Hit Parader a few months back. "I never even met the guy," Jon said. "Why would I say something that stupid? I wouldn't care what he did on stage, but the fact is we never even considered them for an opening slot. I have nothing against Jackyl, but their name just never came up. I guess that guy was just looking to create some controversy. Hey, you gotta do what you gotta do these days.

Inside sources say that people close to Vince Neil are trying to convince the blond belter to get himself on a proper exercise regimen. Neil did drop about 15 pounds prior to his new Vince Neil Band hitting the road a few months back, but insiders feel that the still-portly front man had better lose about 15 more in order to regain his

very well, but they expected it to be Number One. I think when they finally realized that things were going along fairly well, they calmed down a little bit."

Aerosmith have been feeling a little heat over their decision to release Living On The Edge as the debut single from Get A Grip. The song certainly doesn't have the strong commercial appeal of some of the band's other "first" singles, but vocalist Steven Tyler defends the decision. "It wasn't an easy choice," he said. "But we're all very proud of that song. It had to be cut down a bit to even be considered a single, but we, along with some other people, thought it was the way to go. There'll be

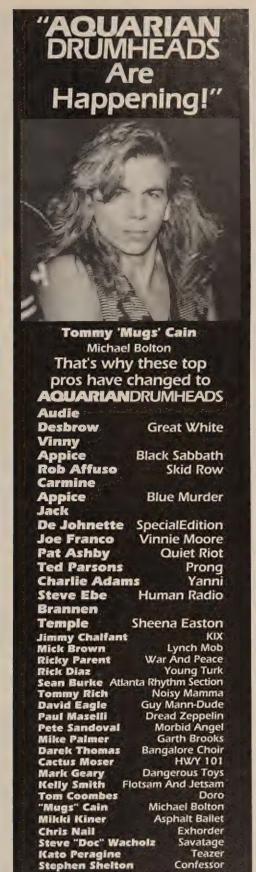
"sex symbol" s o m e Steven Tyler: Feelin' the heat.

status. Of course a string of problems, including a divorce from his wife, may be at the heart of Vince's weight problems.

When their debut single Pride And Joy rocketed to the top of the charts a few months ago, David Coverdale and Jimmy Page assumed that their self-titled debut album would follow a similar track. When it didn't happen, the veteran rockers reportedly started pointing fingers at anyone who crossed their path. "It wasn't pretty," one source said. "The album was actually doing

more commercial things like Eat The Rich comin' up soon."

Is Bonham no more? It seems more than a little ironic that after serving as the backing band on Paul Rodgers' new Muddy Waters Tribute album, Bonham should part wavs with vocalist Daniel MacMaster, Now it's being rumored that the band will tour with Rodgers over the upcoming months. Oh well, Jason Bonham has always had a thing for working with legendary rockers.



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**POWERFU** HITS

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#### "One guy asked me if I liked our record—I

magazine and begins discussing his exercise regimen that morning. "I did 1200 sit ups," he says. "It took me about two hours, but I did 'em. I try to do that about three times a week. The stage takes care of the aerobic stuff—I like to do more toning things in the gym."

A few minutes later drummer Tico Torres

BY ANDY SECHER

tour jacket is buttoned to the top. "JB's here," the tour manager announces over his walkie-talkie, and the band swiftly moves to a waiting van that's ready to wisk them to the airport.

In the van, the talk quickly turns to the

l told him it sucked."

escape for the band from the craziness that is life on the road.

"It's the only place where we really get to relax," Jon said as he took his customary window seat at mid-cabin. "We can sit down, have a hot meal and not have to worry about anything for a little while. Believe me, it's the only way to travel."



and bassist Alec John Such wander by. Alec is wearing one of his trademark jackets; the word "loud" comes instantly to mind. The next opening elevator brings guitarist Richie Sambora to the scene, his ever present smile already in place. "Hey, what's goin' on this morning?" he asks as a greeting. "Pretty good show last night, eh?" Finally, a somewhat bedraggled looking Jon Bon Jovi joins the party. He's indoors, but his little round shades are already on, and his beloved Elvis Presley

previous night's sports action with Richie saying how he regretted having missed the Chicago Bulls home game against the San Antonio Spurs. "But Jordan didn't play," Jon responds from the front seat. "He has some kind of foot infection." From there the conversation wanders across a broad swath of mundane terrain, from interviews the band has to do later in the day to the girls who appeared at the previous night's post-concert party. After cutting through mid-day Chicago traffic for the better part

Less than an hour later, the plane descends into Indianapolis International Airport where another van is waiting to take the band to Market Square Arena, the scene of that night's performance. By 4:30 (the band picked up an hour traveling from Chicago's "Central" time to Indy's "Eastern" time) Bon Jovi is walking into their dressing room and preparing for the evening's festivities. A publicist informs Jon that he and Richie are scheduled to do two TV interviews at 5:00, a series of radio

PHOTO: JAMES MORGAN/ANGLES



spots at 6:00, and a "meet and greet" with about 100 people at 7:00. "When you see how hard JB works it makes everyone work that much harder," the

band's road manager says.

The TV and radio interviews go off like clockwork, and then it's on to the nightly ritual of the "meet and greet" where local personalities, contest winners and record label employees line up to briefly meet with members of the band. Jon, Richie and David quickly file by, shaking hands, posing for pictures and signing anything with a flat surface. 15 minutes later it's over, and the tired rockers head back for the serenity of the dressing room. "One guy asked me if I liked our record," David says with mock indignation. "I told him I thought it

Minutes later the entire band, sans Jon who's busy taking care of some other business, are on stage doing a sound check. They run through a series of bluesy jams before launching into an inspired version of Stranger In This Town from Richie's solo album. The guitarist clearly enjoys getting the chance to play one of his songs—even if it is in front of 20,000 empty seats. A little later, Richie shows off his latest toy, two ear plugs that hook into a backpack that give him CD-like sound direct from the mixing board, "I wear these during most of the show," he said. "But sometimes you've got to take 'em out to hear the crowd. Otherwise you can just get lost in the music."

sucked."

After sound check it's back to the dressing room where some hot food is offered up (tonight's fare is chicken and some oriental-looking pork dish). Jon looks

things over before grabbing a soda and leaving. "I don't like to eat right before a show," he says. "Anyway, there was too much meat there. I've given up eating red meat—not for any of those 'politically correct' reasons. It just fills you up too much. I'd rather eat fish or chicken." While the band passes on the food offerings, their crew chows down like it was their last meal.

The time moves slowly as the opening act, the Jeff Healey Band, puts on an inspired 45 minute set. Bon Jovi passes the time by warming up, tuning their instruments and carefully putting on their stage outfits, but finally, by 9:15 it's time to rock! The house lights go down, the stage lights go up, and within seconds the band has launched into the set opener, I Believe. From there, a healthy mix of new songs like Dry County and Keep The Faith are mixed with "classics" like Livin' On A Prayer and the evening's closer, Runaway.

The tight two hour set is a good one, but not as good as the previous night's two-and-a-half hour marathon in Chicago. In Indy, Jon decides to stick to

the set's running



order, not surprising both the crowd and his own band with his quick decisions to play whatever might strike his fancy—the hallmark of the Chi-town gig.

With a heartfelt "thank you" the group once again disappears into their dressing room, where they stay in a private band meeting for the better part of an hour. Then, David is summoned out to visit about 40 girls who have been culled out of the crowd to visit with the band. It's the idea of the group's local label representative, and no one in the group seems particularly interested. The girls are invited to join the band at a "party" being held at a local steak restaurant.

Soon, the band is once again hopping into a van to be hustled to their hotel. It is the Canterbury Hotel, the scene of exheavyweight champion Mike Tyson's downfall. He was convicted of raping a beauty contest entrant in one of the hotel's rooms. "I want the Tyson suite," yelps David. After dropping off their bags, the band walks down the street to St. Elmo's Steak House, a restaurant Jon says is one of his favorites, though he won't touch his steak. "We always play cards

with the owner to see who picks up the tab," the singer says. "We let Tico play for us. I think we've won the last three times in a row. I hope our luck doesn't change—the tab will probably be pretty hefty

tonight."

As the 40 backstage girls are hustled into a nearby room (the band totally ignores them, though they are at least fed shrimp cocktails), Jon sits at a table talking his favorite subject—football with Jim Irsay, General Manager of the Indianapolis Colts. The subject of music rarely comes up, even among the band № members "Hey, that's work," Richie states.

The clock moves steadily on, and before anyone realizes it, it's 4:00 AM. The band is scheduled for an early departure for Knoxville the next morning, and while a good time is being had by all, the time to say solongs has arrived. Half an hour later

hugs and handshakes are still going on as the band members offer sincere goodbyes to the local friends who they haven't seen in three years, and may not see again until their traveling circus returns to town.

"I love the road," Jon says as the evening comes to an end and he strolls back to his hotel-30 determined fans at his heels. "There were a few moments at the end of the last tour when I sincerely wondered if I ever wanted to do this again. Now I know it's what I live for."

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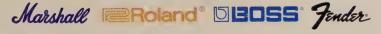
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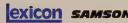




























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ADDRESS

The loud device has become a sort of rallying call, almost a mascot with its own persona for Jesse and bandmates Tom Bettini (bass), Jimmy Stiff (guitar), Jeff Worley (guitar), and Chris Worley (drums). Featured on the single The Lumberjack Song as a musical instrument, the chainsaw serves as a gimmick which sets Jackyl apart from the rest of the pack. But don't let that deceive you. It is their well-written songs and outrageous sense of humor which are truly Jackyl's stock in trade.

to say to or about their fellow musicians. Rumors backstage abounded that Jackyl felt too hip to be supporting what they considered a pop band. Although it is true that Slaughter's second album, The Wild Life, was somewhat of a commercial disappointment, it is also a fact that Jackyl can only dream of matching Slaughter's fan base and multi-platinum record sales. At any rate decorum would mandate at least a civil how-do you-do from the Jackyl camp, but none was forthcoming. Perhaps the fact to keep in mind here is that these are the guys who wrote a song called Redneck Punk.

Another band Jackyl's managed to piss off is Damn Yankees. When the Jackyl/Yanks tour wound its way to Atlanta a few months ago Jackyl booked themselves into a club the night of the Damn Yankees show, and held a contest to select an alternative opening act for them. The Yankees initially sensed a fired when several people were injured during the stampede out of there. Several lawsuits citing "trauma" are pending. Dupree had to appear in court to pay a fine for disturbing the peace. Of course, in rock and roll, that is practically a badge of honor!

Another "honor" the band has received is having the third single from the album. Down On Me receive substantial MTV airplay, as well as a respectable showing at radio. Jackyl now seems poised on the edge of making it big. And if anyone in the industry is surprised it's not John Kalodner.

Kaldoner is the legendary A&R man at Geffen Records. Among other things, his claims to fame include resurrecting Cher's singing career, orchestrating the Page/Coverdale project and overseeing Aerosmith's last several albums. For those of you who always wondered who the bearded bride is in in the infamous

With current album sales at 350,000, rapidly approaching gold, Jackyl continues to redefine the "new" southern rock and roll on their debut national tour. Currently the band is kicking ass opening shows for

Dude Looks Like A Lady video, well, that's Kalodner.

He can also be seen in the Lumberjack Song video with Jackyl. In this one he's dressed up as a school marm who watches aghast as Jesee

> destroys his desk saw. His sense of

Poison. "We're glad to "Occasionally I do feel the urge to get naked on stage." with the chain-

be on this tour," affirms the boisterous Dupree, "but of course I'd like the future to lead straight to an arena that's got our name on the

top of the bill.

Dupree, as the band's self-appointed mouthpiece, draws controversy like honey draws flies. It's safe to assume that anyone who can climb onto a stage and sing She Loves My Cock probably isn't shy. In fact, with Dupree's recent layout for Playgirl magazine, quite the opposite is true. On any given night of the tour, Durpee has a better than 50% chance of dropping his drawers right on

"Occasionally I do feel the urge to get naked on the stage," he states matter-offactly. "As naked as the situation calls for." Indeed. He has been heard to insult PMRC suporter Tipper Gore in front of thousands of fans, displaying various parts of his anatomy which he would like

Unfortunately, there was bad blood which evolved between Jackyl and another band on the early leg of their last tour. With Slaughter completing the bill, the five southern boys had nary a kind word BY PAMELA SHAW

betrayal, realizing that this was one of the few towns where Jackyl could be an advantage to ticket sales instead of just an added part of the show. Ultimately it became evident that the reason the Yankees played without Jackyl, was not because of the latter's behavior. Six Flags Amusement Park, the venue in question, was said to have rejected Jackyl as an opening act on the basis of their controversial reputation. Those acquainted with Jesse Dupree can almost hear that slow. southern drawl exclaiming "Those guys can kiss my ass.'

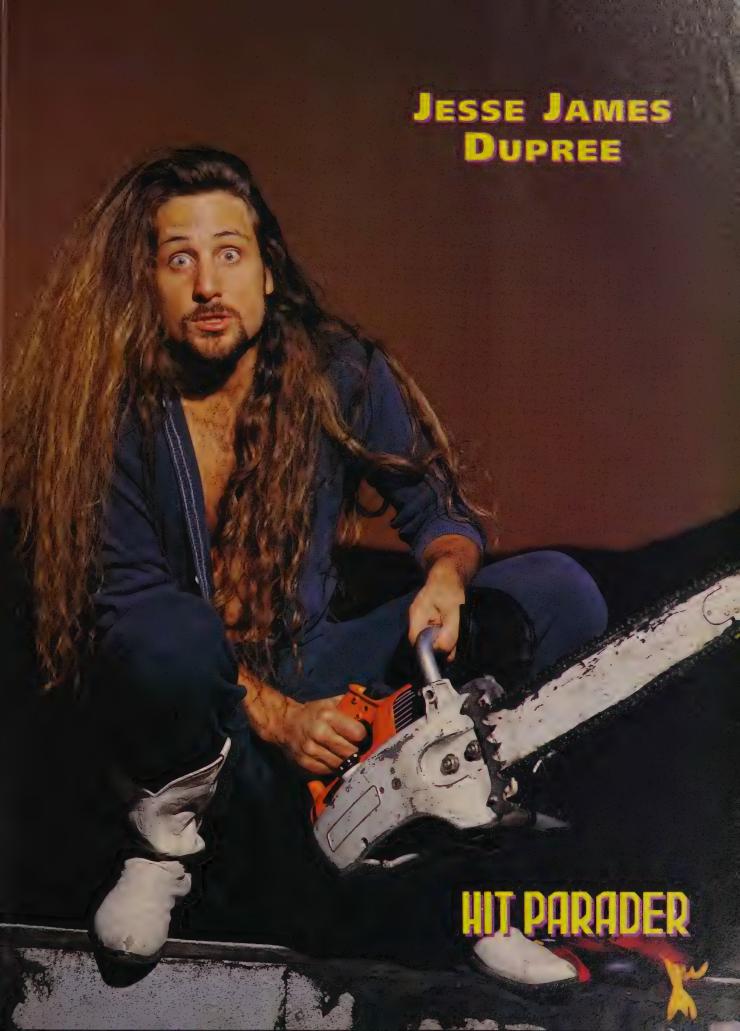
The amusement park's concern sprung from an incident which occured last summer. In Marietta, Georgia, an Atlanta suburb, band members staged a little publicity stunt at the local Longhorn Steakhouse Retstaurant. They showed up with their trademark chainsaw and proceeded to saw a wooden table in half. You can imagine the looks on patron's faces as they saw wild-eyed, long-haired Dupree going at the table with the dangerous device. Alas, the incident back-

humor notwithstanding, Kalodner is recognized as one of the true visionaries in the music business. He had been on the lookout for a unique southern rock band for several years. Then, in 1992, he found Jackyl, and things happened pretty quickly. He signed them to a deal and began talking them up as the greatest thing since sliced bread. People listened.

Guitarist Jimmy Stiff confirms that with Kalodner's guidance, "We've been booking our calendars damn full. We've orchestrated this thing like a game of chess.

Fellow guitarist Jeff Worley agrees, but also points out that "We've been doing this for five years. We played clubs six nights a week and did the chainsaw thing every single night, long before there was even a record deal. It's total entertainment, but at least we figured out a way to make it work without hacking up girls, like W.A.S.P. or some-

As always Jesse James Dupree has the final word. "I guess our viewpoint might be a little bit different because we're from the south. But it's all rock and roll."



## PAUL RODGERS YING HIS RE

t's not often that a rock scribe gets to call somebody The Best- and mean it. Sure, the

term "one of the best" is bandied about all the time-more to soothe potentially bruised egos than anything else. But, let's face it; how many people truly are the best at what they do? Paul Rodgers may well be the very best hard rock vocalist that's ever picked up a microphone. Nah, he doesn't have the on-stage magnetism of an

Axl Rose or the gutwrenching banshee wail of a Robert Plant, but when you get right down to it, Rodgers is a singer's singer, the kind of guy every other vocalist cites as a primary influence. Throughout his 20-plus year career, which has included stints with such legendary acts as Free and Bad Company, Rodgers' gruff, soulful delivery has set a standard against which all other rock vocalists need to be measured.

Now, after dealing with the commercial disappointment of his last two bands, The Firm (with former Led Zeppelin guitarist Jimmy Page) and The Law (which featured ex-Who drummer Kenney Jones), Rodgers has decided to return to his roots. He's gathered together some of the biggest names in the rock quitar world to produce a tribute album to one of his primary influences, blues legend Muddy Waters. The list of six-string contributors to the project reads like a Who's Who of rock guitar, Jeff Beck, Neal

BY WINSTON CUMMINGS

rock devotees. But with some of rock's finest axe masters lending a helping hand, those old blues

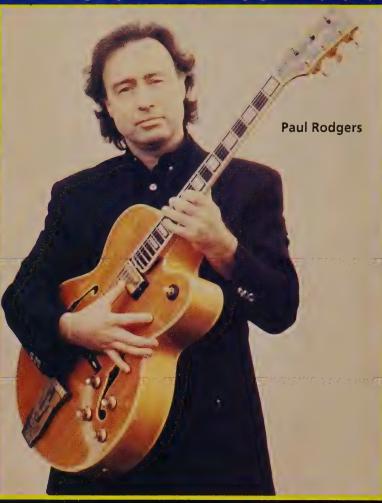
chestnuts have been given a new life, while managing to maintain all of their original integrity. To make sure that the connection between the "rock age" and the "blues age" was properly maintained, Rodgers went out of his way to seek out one of the blues' true living legends, Buddy Guy, to play with him on Muddy Waters

Blues.

"Meeting Buddy Guy and performing an acoustic version of Muddy Waters Blues with him was a real high. point for me," Rodgers said. "But I had to make a deal with him. He insisted that I pay him back for his performance by agreeing to sing on his Feels Like Rain album, I was thrilled to

accept the offer."

Evidently, such young quitarists as Sambora and Slash were as thrilled to play with Rodgers as the vocalist was to perform with Guy. Sambora, for one, has always professed his love for classic British rock, especially the Eric Clapton-led Cream, so working with Rodgers was almost as great a thrill as performing with Clapton himself (as Sambora did on his recent Stranger In This Town solo disc.) For Slash, who's become known as something of a "gun for hire" following his work with everyone from Michael Jackson to Lenny Kravitz working with Rodgers on the Muddy Waters albums was truly a labor of love.



"So many artists have been brought together by jamming on the blues."

Brian May and Slash, to name but a few. Each was thrilled with the idea of not only working with Rodgers, but paying homage to Waters as well.

"The album gets its strength from each of the individuals bringing in their unique artistic approach," Rodgers said. "Everyone has their own shining light. The variety of talents and abilities has been the key ingredient in the creation of this album. Blues music is the father of rock and roll. So many artists have been brought together by jamming on the blues. And to me, Muddy Waters was the best when it came to playing the blues."

Featuring such rock classics as Born Under A Bad Sign (once recorded by Cream), I Just Want To Make Love To You (made famous in rock circles by Foghat) and The Hunter (ironically, an early hit for Free), much of the material contained on the Muddy Waters Blues—A Tribute To Muddy Waters is already quite familiar to ist," Slash said. "I've been a fan for years, and to work with him on a

project like this was obviously very exciting."

For Rodgers, the Muddy Waters Tribute Album is also obviously a labor or love, but one that might have the added benefit of casting him once again into the center of the rock and roll spotlight. After two consecutive bands that failed to attain the degree of success he had grown to expect, he knows that much of his future may be resting with these hallowed tracks. If that is so there's nobody Rodgers would prefer to depend on than the magical blues music of Muddy Waters.

"I've always been a great fan of Muddy Waters," Rodgers stated. "He was an enormous influence on me. For a long time I've wanted to do an album of his music using different guitarists on each track. Now I've been given the freedom to make this dream a reality."

32 HIT PARADER

Schon,

Richie

Sambora,

really a great vocal-

## ROCK & METAL

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# STORE TEMPLE PILOTS

## **STATING THEIR CASE**

"The idea of people cheering us for just showing up never appealed to us."

he members of Stone Temple Pilots are having the time of their lives. These San Diego-based metal merchants have been on a dizzving trek up the ladder of success ever since the day their debut album, Core, was released. Thanks to the success of that album's first single, Sex Type Thing, vocalist Weiland, guitarist Dean DeLeo, bassist Robert DeLeo and drummer Eric Kretz have managed to break out of the pack and quickly establish themselves as a band with something important to say—and a very special way of saying it. Recently we caught up with the charismatic Weiland to talk about how STP is dealing with their sudden burst of success.

HP: Has your first taste of fame and fortune been as pleasant as you might have hoped?

Welland: Yeah, it's been really interesting. Actually, we've been on the road almost non-stop since the album came out, and when you're out there you live in a little world all its own—you don't even have the chance to know how well your album is doing, or if the video is being played. People will come up to you and tell you that they've seen it on TV or heard it on the radio, but that's the only way you have any idea. But we've been confident about this band and this album for quite a while. It's not that we expected to be successful as much as we aren't surprised by it.

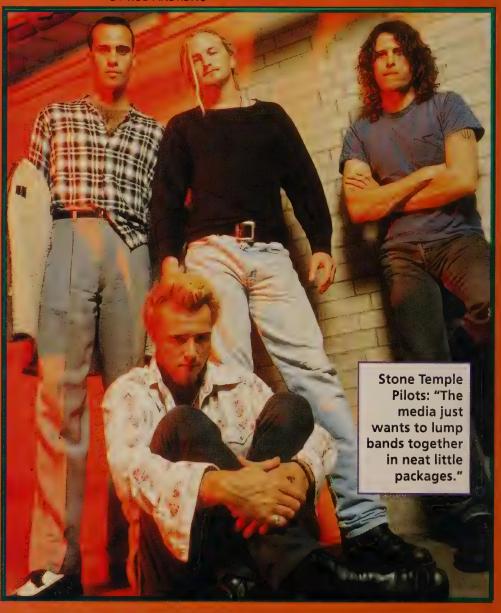
BY ROB ANDREWS

HP: Were you surprised by the response given Sex Type Thing in both a positive and negative sense?

I understand what you mean. It was great that the song received such strong support from the media, but it was a little strange to have people banging their heads and shouting encouragement at our shows as they listened to a song about a social injustice. That really kind of tweeked me off. Sex Type Thing is about how men hinder the freedom of women, but many men have taken the song on face value—not bothering to really try and understand what it's about. That really was annoying.

HP: You've had the chance to headline in clubs and open in arenas for bands like Megadeth. Do you prefer one over the other?

They're just different. In clubs you get to interact with the crowd, really feel the energy. That's a really good experience. Playing arenas is very different. The crowd seems so distant, but it's



34 HIT PARADER

our job to break down those barriers. I think a lot of the people who were at those Megadeth shows didn't know us, but they seemed to really enjoy what we did.

**HP:** Is it a challenge to go on stage and nave to win over a potentially hostile audience?

I don't think we really ever encountered a hostile audience—but they were a little indifferent at first. But that does make you work a little harder. We've never been into that whole "rock star" thing, so the idea of people cheering us just for showing up never appealed to us. We like the attitude of having to work to get some reaction—we know

great experience. There's no question that touring in Europe is a little different than touring in the States, and we really enjoyed it.

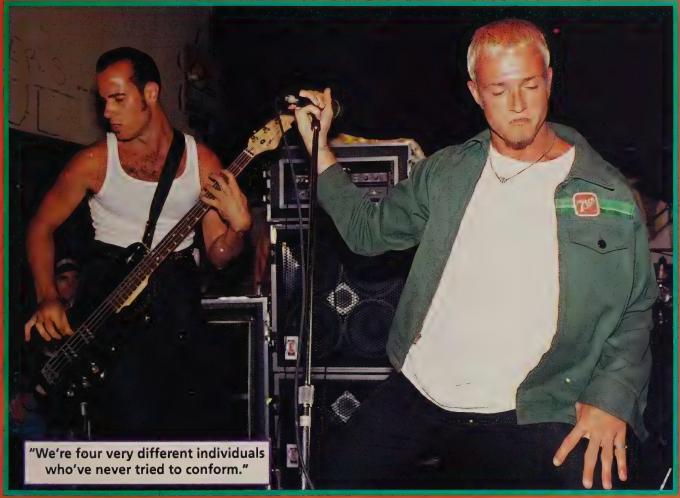
HP: STP finds itself benefitting from the commercial success enjoyed by the Seattle grunge movement. Does it bother you to be considered part of that scene?

Lit does bother me. We're from San Diego, not Seattle, but things go much deeper than that. I have nothing against those Seattle bands, in fact I really like what most of them are doing. That's not what pisses me off. It's more the role the media has played in all this. I think a lot of people are far more interested in

who've never tried to conform into fitting into any particular category or band philosophy. Our musical tastes are different, and our tastes in just about everything else are pretty different as well. That way I imagine that we have a very hard-to-classify image, and that's great. I'd much prefer to have people react to our music than to the way we walk, talk or dress. There's been too much of that in rock and roll for too long.

HP: It seems that you see a lot wrong with the way rock and roll has been presented in recent years. What do you hope to change about it?

I don't know if I would say that I see a lot wrong with it. That would be very



ICK GOULD/ICF

we can do that. It might have taken the crowd a few songs to get into us, but that's okay. We had 'em at the end, and that's what matters.

HP: You just returned from Europe. How did the response to the band differ over there?

Megadeth tour. Some people knew who we were—but a lot more didn't. But, once again, that's a challenge that doesn't intimidate us in the least. We had the chance to play 24 concerts in ten different countries—and that was a

lumping bands together into neat little packages than trying to listen and discover what makes a band unique. Why should people try to find common threads between bands instead of placing equal effort into discovering what makes em tick? That makes no sense at all to me. I hate the "cookie cutter" mentality, and when we're placed into that, I'm obviously quite annoyed.

**HP:** It's been said that your image is a lack of image. Would you go along with that?

We're four very different individuals

pretentious for a band that's just starting out. We're very happy that the magazines like Hit Parader and vehicles like MTV have supported us. That's great. I have mentioned certain things that I find annoying, but I don't think we're alone in that regard. I imagine many other bands find being categorized somewhat objectionable. And the response fans have given some of our songs is a little disturbing. But it's now our job to educate them the best we can. We feel we're up to any challenge that's placed in our way. In fact, we welcome those challenges.

















































































































































































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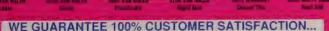














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# BULLET BOSTS

### TAKING AIM

"We've never been the kind of guys who plan very much."

BY BRYAN HARPER

nce upon a time Los Angeles was the hotbed of the rock and roll world. For those of you who believe Seattle invented hard rock in 1991—forget it. Back in the halcyon days of the 1980's an endless string of chart-toppers, from Motley Crue and Ratt, to Poison and Warrant, made El Lay the hub of the heavy metal universe. In the late '80s things began to change—just about the time the Bullet Boys released their debut LP. That self-titled disc shot up radio and MTV playlists—thanks in no small part to the hit single Smooth Up—and established the BB's as a band to watch for in the years ahead. Then in 1991, they released their second album Freakshow. This time there was little fanfare and only marginal commercial results. Yes kiddies, the "scene" had changed. But the Bullet Boys-vocalist Marq Torien, guitarist Mick Sweda, bassist Lonnie Vencent and drummer Jimmy D'Anda have always been fighters. Rather than licking their wounds, they've battled back with a third album, Recordings, that proves it doesn't matter where you call home—it's the way you rock that counts. Recently we caught up with Sweda and Vencent to discuss the changes that the band hopes will lead them back to the top of the rock pile.

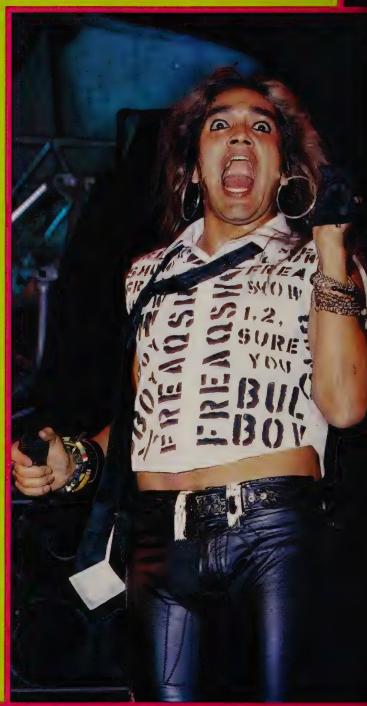
**Hit Parader:** A band's third album is often a critical juncture in their career. Do you feel that's true for the Bullet Boys?

Mick Sweda: There is an attitude within us that says we've got to make this one count. But you can't let the pressure make you do things differently. We've enjoyed a bit of success with this band, and it would be silly to go away from what got us here just because we viewed this album as some sort of key for our entire future. That wouldn't be fair to us, or to the fans who've been with us this far.

Lonnie Vencent: We've never been the kind of guys who plan very much. We've always followed what we've felt in our hearts, and that's true on this album too. It's certainly a different album than our first two were, but it has some of the same qualities too. I think it's a much more diverse and challenging album. We don't know if people will love it or not—but they should. It's a great rock and roll record, and we're totally stoked about it.

HP: You mention that this album is a little different. How? LV: We've utilized a lot of different styles in the songs. I think we did that on the first two albums as well, but not to the same extent. There's still plenty of kick-ass Bullet Boys material here, songs like *The Show, Cross Top* and *Slow N' Easy*, but there are some things like *Laughing With The Devil* that really stretch our boundaries. It's fun to try new things. I don't think we're the kind of band that would be too happy feeling that all we were doing was re-recording our first two albums with

MS: There's one song called For The Damned that features an



different song titles.

acoustic guitar passage that's totally unlike anything we've done before. But before people get the idea we've gone too far in one direction, they should listen to another new song called *Mine*. That one's just the opposite—real heavy. This album has the best mix of material we've ever had.

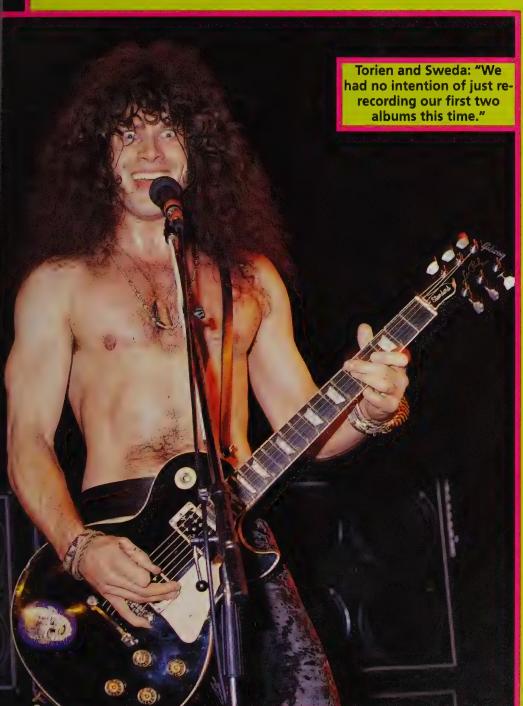
HP: It's no secret that the band suffered through a very difficult period writing your second album. Was that true on Recordings as well?

MS: Yeah, in a way it was. We just write so many songs, that to weed through them and figure out exactly what we want to do with each of them is a very difficult process. On top of that, Ted Templeman was our producer again this time, and he had to take a few breaks during the recording sessions, so that stretched things out quite a bit. But I think we'd all agree that the album was better because of the delays. It gave us the chance to think about that we were doing and make each song the best it could be.

**LV:** You've got to realize that when we went in to do our second album, we were coming off of a 14 month tour, and we were a little burnt. A little partied out. Last time, we were only out there for six months, so we've had the chance to catch our breath a little. I think we worked just as hard on this one, but I don't think it was as much hard work.

**HP:** You mention partying, and the Bullet Boys have developed quite a reputation as party people over the last few years. Is that a true depiction of the band?

LV: At times (laughs). I mean we like having a good time, but we're far from the self-destructive unit that some bands have



become. We do everything in moderation—even if "moderation" to us might be a little loosely defined. I remember one 24-hour party we had on our bus. We were driving from Alpine Valley in Wisconsin to the lowa Jam, and we had two of the guys from Poison with us. That was a pretty fun trip it really stands out in my mind. MS: The trip that stands out for me was the time we were on the bus, and it was April Fools morning-real early. I told the driver to pull over, then I started yelling "fire." You never saw so many people move so fast! When I told everyone it was an April Fool's joke, I don't think they were too happy.

**HP:** It's been said that the Bullet Boys might have been the last rock band to escape from L.A. alive—meaning as a commercial success. Do you agree with that?

MS: I hope there are gonna be more bands coming out of L.A., but maybe it is true for the moment. The scene changes in rock and roll, that's part of life. But it's just as likely to change back as soon as one or two strong bands emerge in L.A. That's all it would take. The bands are still in the clubs—even if they all dress and act like they just got off the plane from Seattle. That's a little strange.

LV: We couldn't be a grunge band if we had to be. That's just not our style. We're proud of who we are and what we've accomplished. L.A. has produced some amazing bands—Van Halen, Motley Crue, Ratt, Poison and the list goes on. We're very proud to be part of that list.

t's been said that Edward Van Halen singlehandedly revolutionized the rock guitar. Like no one other than perhaps Jimi Hendrix, this Dutch-born, L.A. reared instrumental master used his innate creativity and inherent musical gifts to forge a style that was simultaneously unique, invigorating and entertaining. Many a fan has sat spell-bound at a Van Halen concert watching Edward weave his magical web of metal mastery as the notes poured forth from his red-and-white striped guitar. Now, however, for the first time, those same fans have the chance to experience some of those same thrills at home as they listen to the first live album of Van Halen's historic 15 year career, Right Here Right Now. Recently we talked with the legendary Edward about his role as a guitar innovator, as well as the present and future of Van Halen.

HIR Paraders Do you think you're a better guitarist today than you were ten years ago? Edward Van Halen: The funny thing is that somebody sent me a tape the other day that they recorded of us in a club before we even got signed to our record deal. I played a bit of it and my reaction was, "God, I really don't play any different today!" I guess I do play a little different-but I don't play any better. I think you get to a point with your instrument where you play what you wanna play and that's where you hover. I'm happy about where I am with the guitar because I can get out of the instrument what I want. As long as I can do that I'm happy. What changes is the way I feel day-to-day, and that makes the music change a bit.

Have you ever encountered a musical situation where you felt frustrated by your talents?

I Vitt I don't want to sound too egoed out, but the answer is no. I've never been frustrated by a lack of technical ability to pull something off, but what is a little frustrating is occasionally hitting a brick wall creatively. Maybe you've got this great riff, and you just can't figure where to go with it. But that's the mind, not the technical side of things. My mind might be weak, but my technical skills are pretty good.

is that the reason you released **Right Here**Right Now at this juncture of your career?
People have been screaming for an album like this from us for the last ten years. We figured this was the perfect time for us to put it out. It is our 15th anniversary, and we did have a number of tours' worth of material to dig through, and dig through it we did. It took my brother Al and I months to weed

virtually forgotten. Now in the span of six months AC/DC, Kiss and Iron Maiden—in addition to Van Halen—have all released them.

Wife That is kind of strange. We had talked about doing this last June, and then we found out that AC/DC was doing one. My first reaction was "WHAT?" It made it seem like we were jumping on some bandwagon, and that certainly wasn't the case. We've been working on this album ever since we got off the road. I guess there's just something in the air right now that's getting all these bands to do live albums. For us it was just the right time.

Have recent technological breakthroughs made recording a live album easier?

EVH: On a technological level, things are definitely a lot better than they've ever been. But, believe it or not, when it comes to things like microphones, guitars and amps, I think the older stuff is better than the new stuff. I mic my guitar cabinet the same way I did back in 1977. I still use the 158 Shure mic on one speaker, and even though I'm playing my own brand of guitar and amp now, I'm still using an old humbucking pickup and an old tube amp. The outboard gear has changed a lot but that's it.

Now that you've got the live album done, what's next on the Van Halen agenda? EVH: We'll just continue on with what we always do. I think we'll be doing a small tour of America in the summer and then we go right back into the studio. Sammy and I have been working on new songs for quite a while now, so we're ready for the next album.

After 15 years of constantly touring and recording, how do you maintain such a high level of enthusiasm towards your work?

EVH: Writing and making music is just as much fun today as it's always been. The road is something else. I'm married and I've got a kid now, so the fun I have on the road is very different than it used to be! But it's still a lot of fun. But this is my life! I wouldn't be doing it if I didn't enjoy it. I'm working with great guys and great musicians, so why shouldn't I be just as enthused today as ever?

How do you feel when people say that you're responsible more than anyone else for the direction hard rock guitar took in the '80s and '90s?

EVIF I think I did change the way a lot of people approached the guitar. I am guilty of that. I guess there are pre-Van Halen and post-Van Halen guitar players, for better or worse. I did introduce some techniques that

### "Writing and making music is just as much fun today as it's always been."

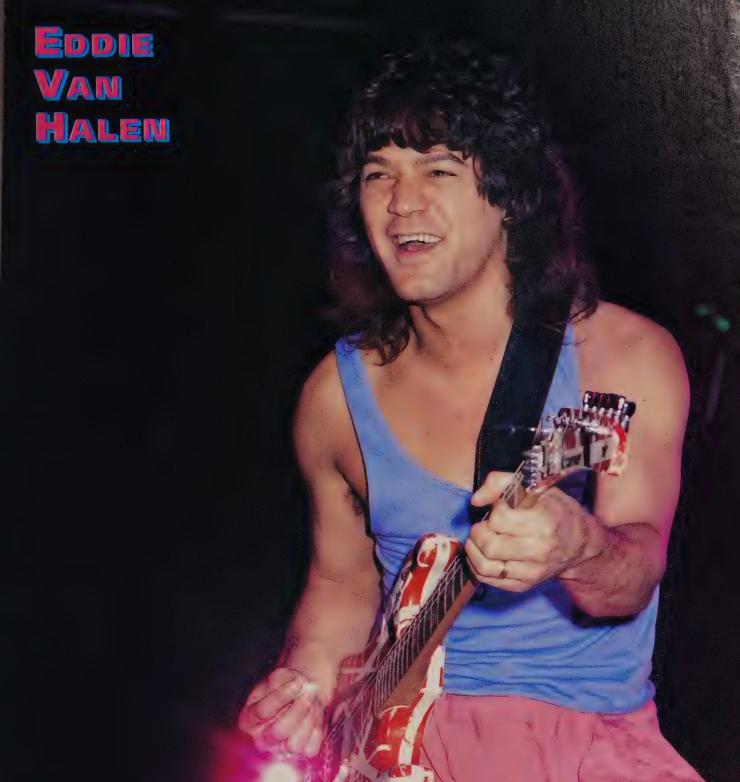
through the miles of tape to figure out what versions of what songs we wanted on this album. It started out as fun—kind of a labor of love—but it became work pretty fast.

BY ANDY SECHER kids wa niques.

Hit It's ironic that throughout the '80s the "live album" was

kids want to learn to play, they want to learn those techniques. Before, I guess people didn't know they existed. So, yeah, I guess I'm guilty as charged. I don't know how much of a favor I did for everyone by getting so many people interested in the guitar, but I've sure enjoyed the hell out of it.

40 HIT PARADER



HIT PARADER

# LA LOO ZIUZA

# WEITE CRUE

ach day, the rock world gets closer to the release date of Motley Crue's new album, Til Death Do Us Part. The excitement continues to build and the pressure mounts—just don't try to tell that to Nikki Sixx, Tommy Lee, Mick Mars or John Corabi. They don't care if everyone is sitting on pins and needles waiting for their latest dynamic disc. Right now, their one and only concern is pleasing themselves and making sure that when that album hits local record stores, everyone from Philadelphia to Paris is totally blown away.



John Corabi: His rough 'n ready delivery has opened new creative doors for the Crue.





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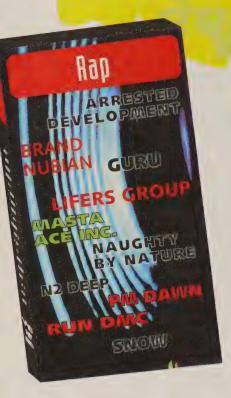
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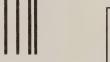


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you really thought Ozzy Osbourne was gonna retire? łey, we've got some swamplånd in New Jersey we'd like to sell you...real cheap! By now it's no secret that all the talk of His Ozzness' premature departure



ve've all reached a stage of ives that we enjoy being her. We have a long, shared and we're mature enough. by what we've accomplished. There has always been a certain

magic when we were all together; sometimes that was tension and sometimes it was craziness, but it was always there.

Certainly any metal fan worth his weight in guitar picks knows the history of Ozzy Osbourne and Black Sabbath. But here's a brief synopsis: Formed in Birmingham,

ELACK SABBATH

from the metal world was just that-talk. Sure, the man

did repeatedly say that he had had enough of life in the

imelight and that his No More Tours world trek would

be his last, but then he'd always add the intriguing phrase

"as Ozzy Osbourne." At the time, Ozzy's intentions

weren't clear, even to himself. It was true that he had

band together and worrying about every facet of an album and tour. He wanted to share that responsibility—or forget about rock and roll until the right opportunity came along. When Ozzy stood on stage with his once-and-future Black Sabbath bandmates—Tony Iommi, Geezer Butler and Bill Ward—in San Diego last November at his "farewell" concert, that opportunity suddenly stared him right in the face.

I know people don't believe it when I say it was not a longterm plan for me to rejoin Sabbath," he said. "But the simple

an old Boris Karloff horror movie, the band quickly established themselves as the heaviest of groups with such classic albums as Paranoid and Master Of Reality. Internal problems, mostly due to drugs and drink, caused the band to break up in 1979, with Osbourne launching his highly successful solo career and Sabbath struggling to regain former glories with a string of vocalists including Ronnie James Dio (twice) and even ex-Deep Purple

frontman Ian Gillan. At one point in the mid-



'80s, Sabbath was little more than lommi and a succession of session players, and the band's musical output suffered noticeably. The original Sabbath lineup reformed once in 1983 for a brief appearance at Live Aid but continuing bitterness and lingering substance problems derailed any reformation talk at that

Finally, however, late last year the timing seemed right. Sabbath, having regained momentum with a major label release. Dehumanizer, seemed to be on a roll with Dio back at the vocal

helm. Ozzy, enjoying multi-platinum success with No More Tears, announced that it was to be his last solo effort. When Dio balked about attending Ozzy's farewell concert (his

former Judas Priest vocalist Rob Halford) the door was suddenly swung wide open for one of the most oft-discussed and antici-

pated reunions in metal history.

I'd like a bit of change for every time I've been asked the question about getting back together with Sabbath," Ozzy said. 'At one time it was very annoying to me. I've never hid the fact that when I left I was quite bitter. But over the years I came to realize that it was my fault. My relationship with the members of the band has always been good. Bill has always been one of my closest friends and Geezer has been in my solo band.

three like-minded middle-aged British rockers is what Ozzy needs to keep going? Apparently it is.

"For a long time I felt I had something to prove as a solo performer," he said. "I had to prove that I could stand on my own and be successful. There was also the question of money, because when I was drinking heavily and doing drugs, I pissed so much of it away. Now I'm more confident about myself and much more in control of my life. In a situation like this I feel I won't have to take on quite as much responsibility. I want to

spend more time with my family. and this will allow me to do that. The tours won't be as long, and the writing won't be as hard. Tony, Geezer and Bill are there for me, and I'm there for them.

So what can we expect from Black Sabbath—and when? Certainly after his 18 month "farewell" tour, Ozzy needs and wants a long rest. But now, some six months after the tour's completion, he's getting ready to gear up. While he was somewhat reluctant to discuss details, it appears that preliminary writing sessions have already taken place in both England and Los Angeles, and that the recording of the new Sabbath album should begin by late summer. While the band would probably love to have the disc out in time for Christmas, most likely the record will see the light of day early in 1994.

One question yet to be answered—and of little interest to



"We're mature enough now to

now to enjoy what we've accomplished."

Now that Tony and I have finally had

the chance to talk there are no problems at all. We're all mature enough to see the benefits of this relationship, and still eager

enough to know we'll enjoy it."

For Sabbath the logic behind such a reformation is obvious; while they have enjoyed sporadic success in recent years, their ability to sell more than 250,000 albums or pack halls bigger than 5,000 people was in the past. Even the addition of Dio, with whom they had recorded two of their finest album following Osbourne's departure, failed to light any commercial fireworks. For Osbourne, on the other hand, the true motives of this move must be questioned. Coming off of one of his most successful albums and tours ever, one must wonder why he would want to do what he always referred to as "taking a step back" by rejoining Sabbath. Can it be true that after almost 25 years atop the rock machine the camaraderie and support provided by

band, their lawyers

and a group of music industry insiders—is on which record label the band's new release will appear? Ozzv's relationship with a division of the Sony group has lasted for 13 years, while Sabbath had just returned "home" to Warner Bros. (where their original releases with Ozzy first appeared) last year. While such a question might seem inconsequential to some fans, to record industry honchos, the idea of a reformed Black Sabbath—a band capable of potentially selling millions of albums—is something to fight and die for. Osbourne only laughs at that notion

"That's something I'd pay to see," he said. "I know there have been discussions along those lines—and we'll see what happens. I don't think it will be a problem, that's all I can say. I think when you consider the problems we've had to overcome to get this far,

that kind of situation isn't going to stand in our way.

PHOTO: NEAL PRESTON

# PHOTO: ROBERT JOHN

# WHO'S HOT-D WHO'S NOT

"It's strange to look at the charts and see what's happening—and not happening."

BY JIM NEWTON

t doesn't take a bunch of geniuses to determine who's hot and who's not in metal as 1993 reaches its mid-way point. That's why we here at Hit Parader feel eminently qualas long-time sales champions battle for survival and young upstarts struggle to gain even the slightest foothold in the market place. Rarely in recent years has the prospects for metal's long-term well-being looked rock bands have blossomed to prove that as long as there are people with heart-felt passions, feelings and desires, heavy metal will live forever!

"It's really strange to look at the sales charts to see what's happening-and what's not happening," Aerosmith's Steven Tyler said. "Hey, you've got to remember that I can remember a time when there were no hard rock bands on the chartsmaybe one would sneak by if they were lucky. So what happened in the mid-'80s was more the exception than the rule. Things could be a lot worse than they are now-but they could be better too. I'm just glad things are real good for Aerosmith.

Certainly, Aerosmith rank among the unquestioned "hot" bands of the moment. Their latest album, Get A Grip, has already passed platinum certification, and seems destined to sell two or three times that amount. Other bands that stand comfortably under the "hot" banner include Pearl Jam, Van Halen, Poison, Jackyl, Guns N' Roses, Metallica and Vince Neil. Each of these acts has either continued a string of longstanding successes or broke through to attain new success in these tough economic times. Of course, as in

Motley Crue: Despite sitting in the snow, they're sure to be "hot" once their new LP, Til Death Do Us Part, is released.

ified to give you an indepth analysis of the latest trends in the hard rock world. A simple look at the current sales charts reflect some surprisingand alarming-patterns for metal bands,

bleaker, with the dreaded forces of rap, country and pop all ebbing away at the real rock audience. But even in these difficult times, some hard

Pearl Jam and Jackyl, it helps when a record label puts their full time and effort



METALLICA

HIT PARADER

behind a project—something that hasn't always been true in recent years.

"Yeah, our label, Geffen Records, has been amazing," said Jackyl's Jesse James Dupree. "They've really pushed all the right buttons for us at radio, MTV and with the press. When you get people like these behind you, then you've got a chance to make it. But we've learned that luck plays a part in it too. A lot of bands are good, but you've got to be lucky to have the right kind of people behind you."

Indeed! As Dupree stated, luck has always played a major role in the success and failure rate of heavy metal acts. Over the years—and especially in recent months-some excellent acts have prematurely fallen by the way-side due to the simple fact that either their labels, their managers or someone else along the "rock chain" failed to do the proper job of promotion. Even bands that enjoyed major initial sales successes like Slaughter, Warrant, Danger Danger, Dangerous Toys, Badlands and Bonham have fallen off appreciably, though their latest albums stand up well when compared to their much more successful previous efforts. Who's to blame? The fingers point in many directions, but one major culprit seems to have emerged-MTV.

"I think MTV has become so fickle," former Warrant vocalist Jani Lane stated. "They're not really interested in building careers anymore. They're into creating one-hit wonders. It's kind of like the way 'Top 40' radio was in the early '60s—and that will never be remembered as a great time for music."

"Great music and great bands have a way of overcoming any problems placed in their path," Kiss' Gene Simmons retorted. "But it is true that MTV has become very selective in the way they present a band. It's hard to believe that even five or six years ago they were being criticized for not presenting any black artists

other than perhaps Michael Jackson—now the videos on MTV are predominantly rap—or at least it seems that way. Rap has its place, I guess, but not to the exclusion of rock and roll."

Unfortunately, the current state of the hard rock world, where the few "haves"

(i.e. Guns N' Roses, Pearl Jam, Metallica, Van Halen) greatly outnumber the "have nots" has forced the major record labels to rethink their signing practices. The inability of most young bands to sell more than 50,000 records or land any sort of tour has made the labels cut back on their metal signings to an almost alarming degree. Today, label A & R guys are looking for either "star powered" band vehicles, like the new

David Coverdale: His Coverdale/Page project has battled to match lofty commercial expectations.

Coverdale/Page project, or inexpensive albums that can be recorded and promoted with a minimum of fuss or expense.

"Things have changed," said one label big-wig, who requested anonymity. "You just don't want to take chances anymore. We've all seen bands fall from selling a

million records to selling a tenth of that on their next record. The exceptions really don't make the gamble worthwhile. This business has always been something of a crap shoot. You never have the odds with you. All you can hope to do is make the odds as strong as possible then roll the dice."

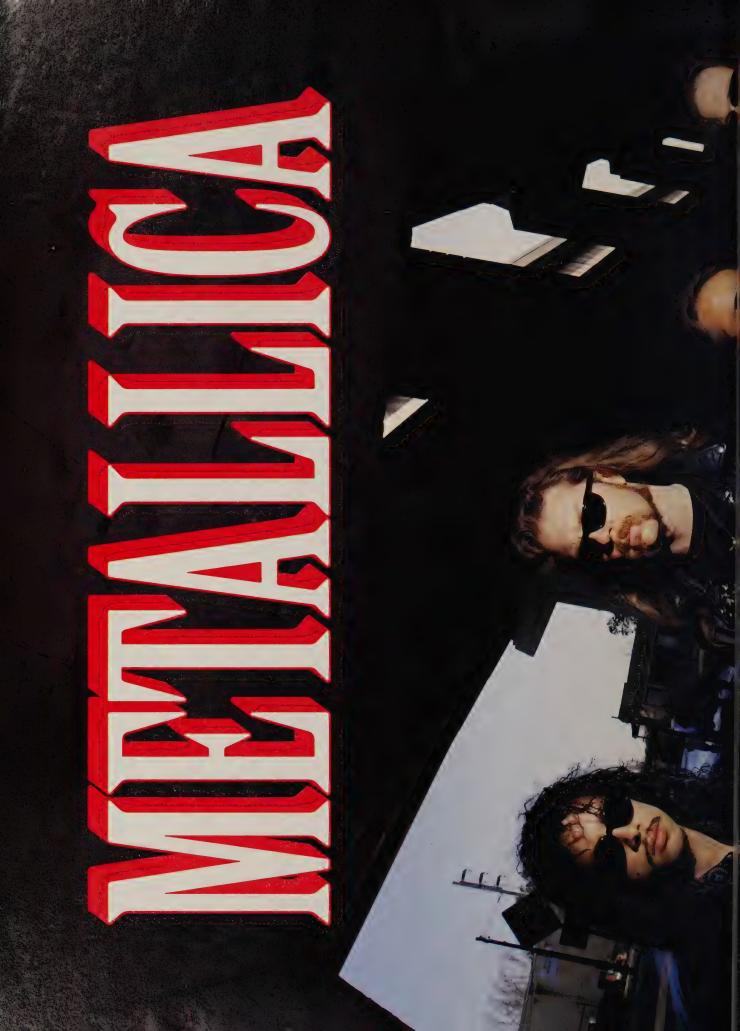
So who's hot and who's not in heavy metal? The simple answer is any band

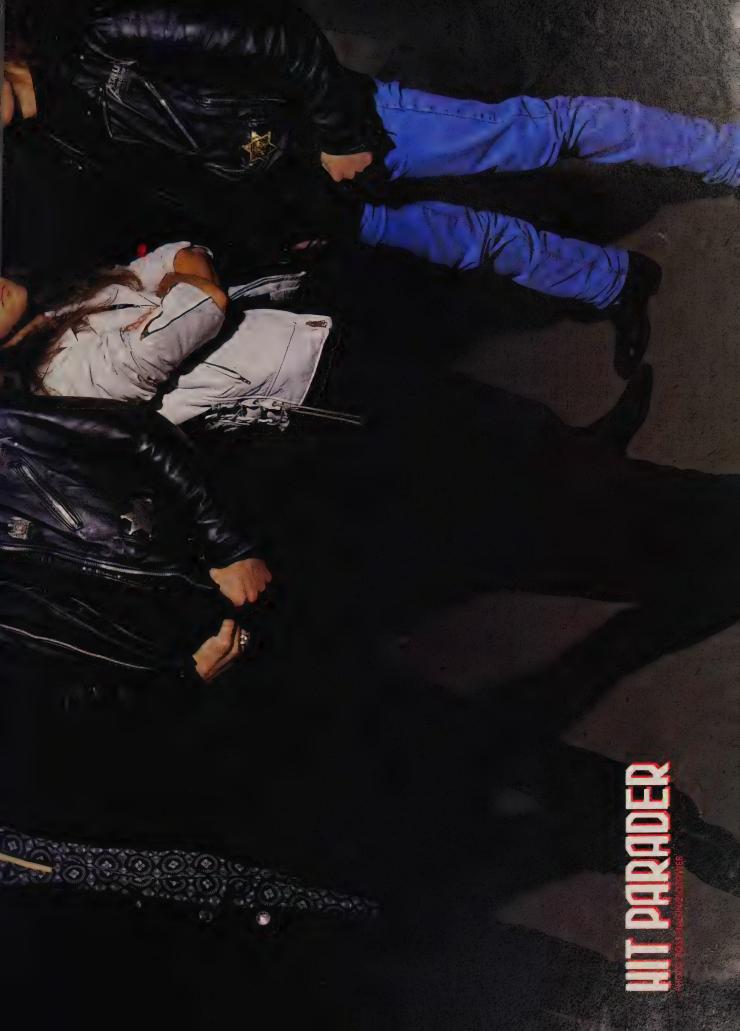
selling enough records and concert tickets to stay alive is to be placed on the "hot" list. While that might seem too bitterly sarcastic a definition of success for some, the reality of the rock world in mid 1993 is this-you survive the tough times to prosper in what promises to be better times ahead. Labels are thankfully sticking with new acts that at least show the promise of developing into exciting and important artists. The success of the Seattle Scene, and bands like Nirvana, Soundgarden and Pearl Jam has provided a cushion for other acts, presenting at least the appearance that metal's audience is still there (after all Pearl Jam's Ten has sold over five million copies) and just waiting for the Next Big Thing to come along. Yet, some of the steam has already run out of the Seattle movement, and with the L.A. scene of the '80s in need of major resuscitation—if it isn't already too far gone—another "scene" had better emerge soon. Some believe it's about to happen.

"I think Boston's music scene is about to explode," stated Extreme's Gary Cherone, who's band hails from Bean Town. "There's a lot of action in the clubs and a lot of good bands. If the labels take their time and really look at what's happening there, they could end up with some exciting talent."

"San Francisco always has some good bands," Bay Area basher Kirk Hammett explained. "But

there aren't as many good places to play now as when Metallica was coming along. There have to be good clubs for bands to have a chance. If bands don't have the chance to play and learn, then the music scene is in trouble but I'm much more optimistic than pessimistic. I know that heavy metal will live forever!"







"I've just been working on where my head's at so I can approach the next record in a way that lets me go to farther extremes."



### **FUTURE BAND PLANS**

In our conversation, Axl touched upon the band's upcoming "punk" album, a collection of tunes started during the Use Your Illusion sessions. He stated that this record still needed some fine tuning which the band hoped to provide once their world tour ended in early summer. He also discussed his own desire to record a solo album, as well as plans for both bassist Duff McKagan and guitarist Slash to release their own projects. In addition, Rose was anxious to reveal the details of the band's upcoming video and film ven-

tures, both of which have been on-going since the release of their Illusion sets:

"Slash has already been working on a lot of new riffs with the band," he said. "I've just been working on where my head's at on things so I can approach the next record in a way that lets me go to farther extremes. We really haven't sat down to collaborate on songs yet, and we don't even know how we're gonna approach writing for this album. Last time, Slash would write his songs, I would write mine, and Izzy would write his. Well, this time there's no Izzy, and Slash isn't writing just his songs-it's gonna be more of a collaboration thing."

HIS SCRAPES WITH THE LAW Let's face it, if there's anything Axl Rose is known for more than his music, it's his legendary on and off stage antics. The nearriots he supposedly incited in St. Louis, Montreal and even Brazil (only days, in fact, after we last spoke) have made him a headline grab-

bing figure whose fame—and infamy have usurped the normally stringent bounds of rock and roll. Surprisingly, Axl admitted that rather than seeking a high profile lifestyle, he actually tries to lay as low as possible whenever he can—but even that rarely seems to work."I'll go out to dinner with my girlfriend, and the next thing I know I have to stop eating because there are people all around," he said. "Basically my life on the road is hotel rooms and planes—unless I have a lot of security with me. In some cities I can go out and do some shopping with just two

security people and have a normal day. Other places I'd need two vans of security people just to move around.

"I know that people have an image of me," he continued. "That's too bad. ! don't think the media has portrayed me very accurately. That's one of the reasons I've wanted to come out and talk a little more. If people read what I actually say and don't like it, at least I can respect that. But it's too bad if people read about some of the incidents that have happened, and try to assume they understand me because of what the press reports about stickers on many albums, warning fans and their parents about "explicit lyrics" or dangerous lyrical topics. Axl believes Mrs. Gore's efforts slowed down Guns N' Roses' sales momentum at a grass-roots level.

"Tipper Gore's efforts really hurt us," he said. "The whole stickering thing took its effect because major record chains like K-Mart and Walmart, which are about 50 percent of a band's sales, won't even carry our albums. I think that the fact that she's now closer to power is something we'll have to deal with. I think the Gores toned down their act in order to get the young vote. But I haven't forgotten what she's



### THE SUCCESS (OR LACK THEREOF) OF USE YOUR ILLUSION Amazingly, Rose admitted to being a lit-

tle disappointed by the way the band's two recent albums sold in the U.S. Why? Well, he feels the culprit is a blond-haired lady by the name of Tipper Gore, who also happens to be the new Mrs. Vice President. In case you've forgotten, Tipper has been at the forefront of an anti-rock campaign called the Parents Music Resource Committee (PMRC) for the last six years. Her efforts forced the music industry to put

### THE FUTURE EMBERSHIP OF **GUNS N' ROSES**

Many of the band's fans were upset when first drummer Steven Adler and then guitarist Izzy Stradlin left (or were asked to leave) the group's fold. To some it seemed as if Axl's dictatorial tendencies had come to the fore, potentially destroying the band's magical chemistry after only two albums. As everyone began to learn the real facts about the band's roster changes, Axl was cast in a very different light, and with the addition of drummer Matt Sorum and guitarist Gilby Clarke, G N' R seemed like a true band again...but Axl warns that change is always on the horizon for Guns N' Roses.

"We have new people in the band," he said. "But what works at the end is what gets me and Slash off. We're not sure where we

want to come from with the other band members as far as the writing goes and who knows, if someone isn't into a song, maybe they don't want to be there. "

"I want to do some stuff on my own too," he added. "But as long as Slash and I are together there will always be a Guns N' Roses. I'm not out there to try and prove my own sense of identity. I like the feeling of raw expression, of just putting ideas together. But as far as I'm concerned, Guns N' Roses is very strong at the moment."

teven Tyler and Joe Perry are the "yin" and "yang" of rock and roll. Rarely have two more diverse personalities worked together for so long, and so well. Sure, there have been problems—most notably the five-year split in the early '80s that saw Perry take off on his own. But most of the time these notorious "Non-Toxic Twins" are like the flip side of the same coin. One, Perry, can be counted on for thoughtful introspective answers to virtually any question, while the other, Tyler, is always on the prowl for a straight line. It's hard to get an answer with "meat" from this large-lipped singer; his irreverent wit seems to place a permanently locked safety guard against that! But when you get these guys to sit down and open up about Aerosmith's latest album, Get A Grip, there's no end to the surprises that are in store. They've been down this road many times before, and they know exactly what to say-and

exactly when to say it. Like any good showmen, they know just how much to reveal without giving it all away.

"Writing and recording an album is like being in outer space," Tyler said with typbravado. "Sometimes you just have to get out there and start spacewalking. All you have is that thin tether connecting you to the ship, but sometimes

you just have this real intense desire to cut that cord—just to see what's really out there. You want to just

didn't feel our stuff matched up. We had a lot of good material, but it wasn't a great record. We had to make a choice right then about what to do. We decided to go back and write some more and record some more at an expense of half a million dol-

lars out of our own pockets, I may add."

One of the reasons that Aerosmith may have felt a little extra pressure to come up with a truly superlative album this time around is that they knew the eyes of the rock world would be watching them extra carefully. Since the release of their last album, the band had signed a new multi-multi million dollar deal with Sony Music, making them the proverbial "lame ducks" with their current label, Geffen Records. Still, they owed Geffen two more albums (including Get A Grip) and the rock community was most interested to see if the band would work as hard as before to provide Geffen

> just do a "let's get out of here" album and save their best material for their new label. Both Perry and Tyler scoff at such a notion. "Yeah, we're aware that a lot of people were thinking like that," Perry said. "But if that was our idea, we wouldn't have gone back into the studio and spent so much of our own money. We're not motivated by business decisions—we're motivated by making

good music. We would never release anything that we felt didn't live up to what Aerosmith's

with top-qual-

ity material, or if they might

### get out to where you've being in outer space." "Writing and recording

BY STAN HUNTER never been before, but you know it can be a little dangerous. Every time I found myself getting ready to spacewalk this time, to really go too far out there in terms of writing

lyrics or music, I said to myself, "get a grip!"

"It is kind of cool to have an album with a title that really says something about us and about the record," Perry added. "It kind of reacts to all the crap that went on while we were making the record. Actually it was a working title that we had about a year ago, and it actually held up, which is very unusual for us. Usually a title is one of the last things we choose."

Some of the "crap" that Perry refers to has to do with the fact that Aerosmith did not one, but two complete recording sessions for Get A Grip. At first, they headed back up to Little Mountain Studios in Vancouver, British Columbia, the now-legendary spot where they recorded such landmark platinum platters as Permanent Vacation and Pump. But after spending five months in the studio there (and going through virtually all of their recording budget), the band still wasn't satisfied with what they had accomplished. So after a short writing break they went back into the studio, this time in Los Angeles, to record an additional group of songs-many of which now form the backbone of Get A Grip.

"We recorded Eat The Rich, Fever and Get A Grip in L.A.," Tyler said. "I kind of locked myself in a hotel room for a couple of weeks and just wrote as many good song lyrics as I could. I think we needed a little change of scenery to really make this record happen. Things had grown a little stale up in Vancouver."

'When we finished recording in Vancouver I found myself driving around a lot listening to other albums, as well as what we had done," Perry added. "The record I kept going back to was the new U2 album because that was the one that had cohesion all the way through. It was really an amazing record. I

stood for. That wouldn't be fair to the label, to us or to the fans. And anyway, at this point in our lives, who are we foolin'?"

"We spent the better part of two years working on this music." and it was a struggle all the way," Tyler added. "We had a lot of fun doing this record—in fact I had the most fun I've ever had. But it was hard work. In the old days we'd come up with nine songs and then struggle to finish the last one or two. This time, we had 20 songs and the biggest problem we had was choosing which ones to use. We didn't save our best material—but we do have some other things that are ready to go.

Speaking of "ready to go," one of the places that Aerosmith is rarin' to go these days is back on the road. It's been almost three years since these road warriors last hit the tour trail, and despite their advancing age, they feel as ready for the rigors of the road as ever before. In fact, Perry in particular feels that with Get A Grip Aerosmith may be more prepared for the concert circuit than ever before—and in light of Aerosmith's past suc-

cesses, that's really saying something.

"This album was written for the stage," he said. "We'll probably be playing the whole damn thing each night before this tour is over. We won't be so self-indulgent to do that right away, but this album does lend itself to being played live a lot more than some of the other things we've done. I like to put myself in the position of somebody who had never heard any of the music and was hearing it for the first time in a club. You need to have music that grabs people the first time they hear it; this time we

"It's always hard to cut down a set," Tyler said. "We've got a lot of those classic Aerosmith songs that everyone wants to hear. But we want to play this stuff as well. Hey, maybe we'll just stay on stage for three or four hours. Either I'll be dead from doing that, or having the time of my life."



erhaps there have never been two more exciting words in the hard rock vocabulary book than Kiss Alive! Twice before those words have signalled precedent-shattering albums filled with enough powerhouse riffs, unforgettable melodies and scintillating instrumental performances to keep any headbanger happy for years...and years...and years. In fact, it's now been 15 years since Kiss' second Alive! album rocketed to the top of the charts, but Kissaholics, the wait is over! Alive III is finally here, and it's a disc worth waiting for. Featuring material both new and old, Alive III rock and rolls, struts and strolls as few live albums have done before. Hey, this isn't just a live album, bud—it's alive—Kiss Alive to be exact.

Hit Parader: Why did you decide now was the right time to release Alive III?

Paul Stanley: When we first did Kiss Alive back in the '70s, we had no idea what kind of impact it would have. We were just making a souvenir of our show for the fans. But that album started what became Kiss' mega success story. Three years later we decid-

older songs for a long time. But the band is incredible right now. The 'tribe' feeling is back—we're all very close and we miss each other when we're not together.

**HP:** Why did you choose to just use recordings made during your most recent tour on this album?

**PS:** We recorded three shows on this tour-Cleveland, Indianapolis and Detroit—and that's where all the recordings are from. There was no reason to go back any farther than that. The band sounded simply incredible on this tour, and having Eric in the group was a big part of that. The four people who are in the band now are Kiss—whether we're playing *Strutter* or something from **Revenge**.

dawned on us once we started listening to some tapes was that we were negating an important part of our history. It's 15 years since those first two live albums came out, and it's important for all our fans—both newer ones and the ones who've been with us from the beginning—to get an accurate overview of Kiss' history. Plus, it was real important for the band to reclaim these songs and prove that they didn't belong to a certain period in our history or to certain members; they belong to Kiss today!

**HP:** Are you surprised by the way Kiss' sound has evolved over the years when you hear new live recordings of old favorites?

PS: We've always made a point of never allowing ourselves to change songs in our set to be self-indulgent. Just because we might grow tired of them doesn't mean we can allow ourselves to change them or drop them from the set. That's not fair to the fans. There are bands around who evidently get bored playing certain songs, because when you see them live, you're not sure what



### "The four people who are in the band now are Kiss—whether we're playing *Strutter* or something from **Revenge**."

ed to make Kiss Alive II which had an even bigger effect. Then over the years we began to understand what we had created—it became almost intimidating. The kids kept asking 'Hey, when are you gonna do the next live album?' And we fully understood what we had to live up to. Nobody likes a bad sequel, and we were determined not to make a Friday the 13th Part 27. Then we had some problems within the band, but we just decided that we had no reason to do a live album unless we could be totally proud of it. So the years just kept going by. I don't think we really felt we could match or surpass what we had done in the past until now.

**HP:** Is that because of the people who are in the band now—Eric Singer and Bruce Kulick in addition to you and Gene Simmons?

PS: In part—in fact a big part. It took until we had done both the Hot In The Shade and Revenge tours for us to both get the band sounding just the way we wanted and for us to fully acknowledge what we had accomplished in the past. We had shied away from playing some of the

BY ANDY SECHER

**HP:** You released *I Love It Loud* as the live album's first single. Why?

PS: Actually, that song was released once before as a single, but we were at a strange point in our career when the studio version of I Love It Loud came out. It had become clear to me—and to a lot of other people too-that the makeup had to go. It had grown tired. People were wondering if we still believed in it or were merely going through the motions. Creatures Of The Night, which is where I Love It Loud first appeared, is an album that the die-hards loved, but that a lot of people overlooked. So in a way, we're giving that song a second chance. You know, it's like the old story about a tree falling in the forest. Nobody was around the first time it was released, so it didn't really make a sound.

**HP:** How tough was it selecting the songs that made it onto **Alive III**?

**PS:** It was real interesting how that came about. Originally we figured that this album would feature all the songs that had come out since **Alive II**. But what

song you're hearing. As big a fan as I was of Led Zeppelin's I remember hearing a version of Whole Lotta Love one time where I wasn't sure what song it was. When you can take a song like that and turn it into some kind of monster, I've got to stop and wonder. We've always been determined to play our songs as faithfully and honestly as we possibly can every night—and that means to play 'em as they were written. There's no room for a reggae version of a Kiss song—at least not from us.

**HP:** You mentioned how some bands get bored with their shows. How do you prevent letting boredom occasionally take over after so many years on the road?

**PS:** I can understand how it happens with other bands—but not with us. Every night it feels like the first time for me. It's never a chore to play any of our songs for me. We play *Love Gun* every night, and each time I subconsciously think, "This is one of my favorite songs." That's a great feeling to have. To me, what Kiss has created, the songs we've written and performed, are monuments, and I'm prepared to stand on those monuments anytime, anywhere.



# COVERDALE STAGE t some point in nearly everyone's life they've fantasized about putting together a "dream team, rock circular together a "dream team, rock circular together a "dream team, certainly holds true in rock circular together a "dream team, certainly holds true in rock circular together a "dream team, certainly holds true in rock circular together a "dream team, certainly have fill guys maybe that's assembling a super all-star baseball unit, for girls perhaps it's listing together a "dream team, certainly have fill guys maybe that's assembling a super all-star baseball unit, for girls perhaps it's listing true in rock circular team, and the form to the coverdale particular team, and the fruits of the Coverdale particular team, and the fruits of the Coverdale visions of a reality, and the fruits of the Coverdale visions of a reality, and the fruits of the Coverdale visions of a reality, and the fruits of the Coverdale visions of a reality, and the fruits of the Coverdale visions of a reality, and the fruits of the Coverdale visions of a reality, and the fruits of the Coverdale visions of a reality, and the fruits of the Coverdale visions of a reality, and the fruits of the Coverdale visions of a reality, and the fruits of the Coverdale visions of a reality, and the fruits of the Coverdale visions of a reality, and the fruits of the Coverdale visions of a reality, and the fruits of the Coverdale visions of a reality, and the fruits of the Coverdale visions of a reality, and the fruits of the Coverdale visions of a reality and the fruits of the Coverdale visions of a reality and the fruits of the Coverdale visions of a reality and the fruits of the Coverdale visions of a reality and the fruits of the Coverdale visions of a reality and the fruits of the Coverdale visions of a reality and the fruits of the Coverdale visions of a reality and the fruits of the Coverdale visions of a reality and the fruits of the Coverdale visions of a reality and the fruits of the Coverdale visions of a reality and the fruits of the Coverdal

"The two of us together, We generate a substantial amount of electricity.





"The two of us together, we generate a substantial amount of electricity," Coverdale said. "The music is flesh-and-blood meat and potatoes rock. It would be easy for either of us to be disappointed and make overwrought music just because of his name and my name. We've done it all, seen it all, poked it all for a substantial period

it all, poked it all for a substantial period of time, surviving whichever musical hula hoop was the current fad. But

hanging on by one's fingernails I find personally sad. Aging isn't a sin, mediocrity is. I think on this album we've risen to each other's expectations."

Ironically, despite their hallowed past achievements, Page was barely aware of Coverdale's musical legacy prior to their

meeting; the vocalist, on the other hand, had long worshipped at Page's musical shrine. When the two found themselves at career crossroads following the breakup of their last groups (Whitesnake and the Firm), and signed to the same record label, Geffen, forces began to draw these two English gentleman together. When the two generated an incredibly frenzied fan response merely by walking together through the streets of New York one afternoon, they felt they might very well have something special on their hands.

"We literally stopped traffic during that walk," Coverdale said. "People wanted to know, 'Are you guys working together?' The hairs on my neck stood up. That's when I thought this could be more than interesting. Actually, we were both pretty nervous at first. To show how unprepared we were for this working, just prior to Jimmy's arrival at my house I picked up a cheap ghetto blaster, \$50 from Radio Shack, and we did some of the scratchiest, most shocking demos on it. But we had this exciting vibe, nothing contrived, and the songs just came pouring out, It was incredible."

"You can't plan on magic,"
Page added. "Our common bond is passion for this music. But I really wasn't that familiar with his past work because I didn't listen to many other bands. I had enough to work with coming up with music of my own."

Working virtually on their own, without the aid of an actual band, Coverdale and Page began the arduous, though entertaining process of probing each other's creative psyche. It became quickly obvious that both felt he had something to prove: Coverdale, that his brief platinum success with Whitesnake was no commercial fluke, Page, that he was and always will be the driving

force behind Led Zeppelin. Slowly but surely, working in both America and Europe, the songs that comprise Coverdale/Page began to take shape. Using their love for both hard rock and the blues as the foundation upon which to build their musical empire, within six months the pair had writ-

### Jimmy Page: "You can't plan on magic."

ten more than an album's worth of material and were ready to get down to the serious business of getting it down on tape.

"We did not sit down and say, 'Let's write a Led Snake album'," Coverdale joked. "We have a substantial amount to offer without resting on former glories. It's easy



David Coverdale: "Aging isn't a sin-mediocrity is."

to make comparisons, but that's for the narrow-minded. This album represents the last two years of our lives, of two musicians who have grown genuinely close as friends, which is quite remarkable really. You put two people together in a sort of corporate merger and you won't get this result."

"I was amazed by his commitment," Page added. "He's a vocal gymnast, someone whose notes soar through the air. He isn't willing to see any barriers. He doesn't take anything lightly once he grabs hold. You could come up with something totally bizarre and he wouldn't let it defeat him."

Judging by the results the pair achieved on such tracks as their debut single and video, *Pride And Joy*, despite their 40-plus years experience, their music is still as contemporary as tomorrow's news. While groups such as the Black Crowes, Cinderella and even Guns N' Roses reach to attain

some degree of authentic roots rock credibility, Coverdale/Page are unquestionably the real goods. They've got the

reps, they've got the chops, and now they've got an album that can teach the young whipper-snappers on the block a thing or two.

"Jimmy has a phenomenal legacy which is as potent as ever," Coverdale said. "It's great to look over and see somebody

> crunching chords and giving you this foundation to go nuts. Give me some backbone, not some widdly-widdly player! I'm used to calling the shots, but it's easy to hold back when there's this kind of enormous reward. JP's philosophy of build—the sheer dynamics, the whisper-to-a-scream thing—is something I've always admired. And he's so nuts about the creative process and not accepting just anything. I've given jingle chords to somebody and gotten jingle chords back. Whereas with him, I get this beautiful counter melody. I've never had anyone to work with who's that intense."

> "If I came up with something he's been so fast to come on top of it," Page added. "He'd throw guitar ideas at me as well and I'd have to get my thinking cap on and come up with something. I'm never shy about coming up with ideas for music. But I communicate best through music rather than words. David's extremely eloquent which is why he writes great lyrics."

Of course, no matter how wonderful the songs contained on **Coverdale/Page** may be, fans who will be paying their hard earned money to see the band in concert will undoubt-

edly expect to hear more than a smattering of the pair's classic catalogue thrown in. Will it be a sacrilege for Coverdale to cover Whole Lotta Love or Stairway To Heaven? Certainly more so than Page playing the Zeppelin-inspired chords for Still Of The Night. But will these legendary rockers let their histories get in the way of the musical proceedings? No way!

"We're both really proud of our respective work," Page said. "Of course we're going to play songs from our past. There's so much material, the only question is will it be a two hour show or a two day show?"

assist Cordell Crockett and guitarists Klaus Eichstadt and Dave Fortman looked pretty good in the early evening when Hit Parader visited them in their dressing room. They had been awake for several hours, withstood a photo shoot and a soundcheck. Certainly they weren't looking forward to another interview. Hit Parader decided to play upon Ugly Kid Joe's emotions, and instead of asking them the "normal rock and roll interview-IOI" questions, we got Cordell, Klaus and Dave to vent their feelings about life, liberty and the pursuit of rock and roll.

Hit Parader: What's the ugliest thing about the music business?

Cordell Crockett: The total greed. There is greed that'll come from places you might not think. I'm not gonna say specifics; I'm not gonna cut my own throat here. The worst part of the music buinsess, and probably any business, is greed. The desire for money overtakes the desire to put out creative things. People really wanted to do something because they think it's cool but it won't sell as much unless they did it another way. So they do it this way. Money gets put before art a lot of times. That's just the way of the world. That's show business.

Dave Fortman: They should all take advice from Klaus Eichstadt. Just relax, man.

HP: How do you fight the "money versus art" thing?

**DF:** Actually we're becoming more conscious of it. Cordell got us on that trip.

**Kiaus Eichstadt:** 

You do end up having to fight for a lot of things especially when you're with a huge record compnay. Their job is to

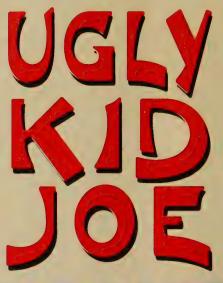
sell a lot of records. A lot of people that you're working with get involved with album covers, names of songs, lyrics. They start advising, "You shouldn't do that." Our record cover got banned in all the Handlemans—the chain that sells to all K-Mart stores. We love this cover that we've got. And I'm not blaming them. It's kind of like a lawyer saying, "Plead guilty even if you didn't do it." Whereas if you don't plead guilty and they do find you guilty, you're gonna be screwed for 15 years. Our label said, "There's gonna be a ban on your cover. You guys can do what you want," which they always say and I think that's cool. We usually try to accomodate but we had to say "Let's go with our cover; we really believe in it. And when it does get banned, we'll develop another cover for those people". instead of making their jobs hell with a line like, "It's our cover." Meantime there's a bunch of stores where a bunch of kids can't buy our records, which is not good. 'Cause a kid lives in some remote city like Cedar Brook, IL and wants to get the record, but the stores don't have it. He can't get our record if we don't make a censored cover. So we did it.

C You gotta give and take. I think we got a lot with this band—all the songs we wanted to put on our record got on there. Everything About You wouldn't have been on this album but that was a business decision because certain people can't get the EP outside the US.

KE: They just wanted to bury the EP outside the US. That way a kid in Japan would probably just buy the record instead of the EP.

DF: Unless he hears Whiplash Liquor.

KE: So far it's been really cool with us. The EP with the picture of the cat and the firecracker—they were like "Wait a second." And we were like, "C'mon man, it's a total



KE: No, that wasn't my idea. The name was my idea. There's a guy named Moishe Bredman from Santa Barbrara, who's an artist who's done six or seven things for us. He's a 21 year old who I can never find; he's got six or seven numbers and keeps on moving. He gets kicked out of this and that. He does a lot of art for our skateboard friends. We had a name. We wanted a logo and had a kind of idea for the Ugly Kid. We all hovered around, "Do this—do that." And he started sketching this kid out and we kind of watched as he did it. I remember I gave him a bag of chips, a Pepsi and a candy bar and four dollars which was all the money I had in my pockets. Four hours later he had it perfectly done.

**CC:** We paid him well since then. He can draw all kinds of stuff. So anybody out there, hire Moishe Bredman-'cause he's real good.

KE: Don't blame us anymore. He's the guy who drew the cat.

**HP:** Have you been in touch with Pretty

Boy Floyd? **KE:** Yes. They called us at the studio when

we were recording America's Least Wanted in L.A. When we came up with the name, it was kind of a joke like we were kind of making fun of them a little bit-like the anti-glam situation. The singer called "Hey, I'm Steve from Pretty Boy Floyd." And I said, "Oh hi, I'm Klaus, Ugly Kid Joe" and I'm thinking, "Uh oh." But he was like, "Hey, I just want to say thanks a lot for all the publicity you've given us. " And they invited us to

jam with them at the Roxy later that week." And I said, "Hey, we'd love to if

we can find time." West Coast Rock Brigade Soar With Cats In The Cradle. At that time we were in the studio 14 hours a day and we wouldn't start until at least four in the morning. So there was no way we could get away and do it. We still

CC: They're really cool.

gotta do it.

**KE:** We're probably gonna do a T-shirt trade. On some of my equipment I wrote "Pretty Boy Floyd" as a joke-making it look like we bought their old equipment.

HP: What's the best thing about the music business?

**CC:** The best thing about the music business is they're putting out music. That's the bot-tom line is that through all the b.s. of the greed and power is that the music does—in fact—get out there and there is good music to be heard. That's the best part of it and that it turns people on—they can crank it in their homes, when they're riding down the street, either to escape from reality or to be inspired to do something good. And you do meet a lot of cool people in the industryother bands and the musicians.

**DF:** I used to think it was a bunch of cigar smoking dudes, "Alright bend over and you'll get a contract. " But even if their intentions might be weird sometimes the people in the music business are really nice.

BY ANNE LEIGHTON

joke. You see that on The Simpsons. There's always some mystical kid named Ernie that did it 20 years ago." We never actually did that. It's not like we're provoking you to run over cats.

HP: PETA's gonna accuse you of animal

CC: I've been a vegetarian and don't like animal abuse. I don't like torturing anything. I speak for the whole band when I say that. But I'll see something like that on The Simpsons. It's black humor.

DF: It's a cartoon. Roadrunner used to bash his head off a 1000 foot cliff.

CC: It didn't kill the cat. The whole story basically is that the power went out in Ugly Kid Joe's house when he was playing with firecrackers. And the cat got scared, jumped on the couch and got one lodged in his anal canal. He heard the cat scream, lit up his lighter and saw the cat running. And he ran after the cat to try and get the fire cracker out. That's the story. It had nothing to do with hurting things.

HP: Who's idea was the "ugly kid" char-

CC: That was Klaus' idea.





### THE LATEST ON THE ALTERNATIVE METAL SCENE

REAKING INTO THE MAINSTREAM rock world can often be as difficult as breaking into a high-tech computer network. Underground computer "hackers" generally invade heavily fortified systems by using what's commonly known in computer lingo as a "back door." For the members of New Jersey grunge-rock outfit Monster Magnet, discovering a back door into the rock scene was a simple matter of playing guitar-driven hard rock inspired by classic plunk.

"We never thought we had any real talent, and the big-time rock world seemed so far out of our reach that we figured it would be impossible for us to become a part of it," says Magnet guitarist/singer Dave Wyndorf. "But punk music actually allowed the average Joe, like each of us, to get into a rock band and make something of himself.

"Most of the music we play is drawn from influences that were in each of us early on in our lives. It's very hard to escape that. So, when you dig down deep and pull out something, it's naturally going to be something inspired by what you heard when you were really young. And for us, punk bands like the Ramones, the Dictators—and even Kisswere the bands that inspired us to play. We owe the most to classic rock, old garage punk bands...and Charles Manson."

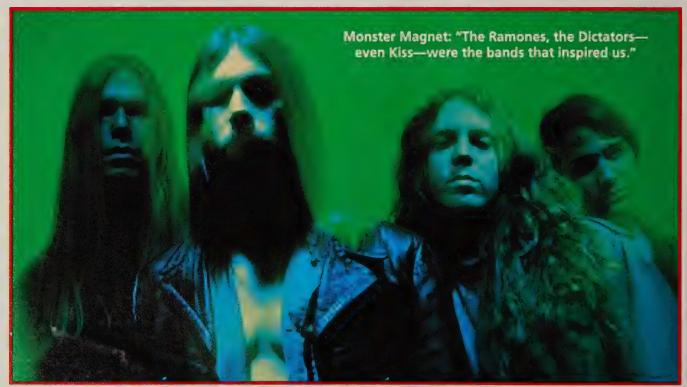
With their second album, **Superjudge**, Monster Magnet stir up a wicked batch of raw, Sabbath-y riffs, acoustic melancholy, dreamy psychedelia and grimy, sewer-flavored grunge. But despite their obvious versatility, the members of Monter Magnet prefer to keep their music simple.

"Our sound is very dense, and it might seem like there's a lot going on—but the parts we're playing are generally very simple," says Wyndorf. "We like to come up with a good part, and just try to reinforce it as much as possible, so that it has the effect of bludgeoning someone over the head. If you get too 'out there' with your parts, you won't be able to achieve that same ram-rod effect."

Part of Monster Magnet's genius is that they were able to make a terrific album like Superjudge without spending a year's salary on gear or a lifetime in the studio. Even with its primitive production, dirty flavor and obvious musical screw-ups, **Superjudge** still manages to outshine the majority of big-budget rock albums.

"When you're recording an album, the difference between right and wrong is never clear," says Wyndorf. "If we make a mistake in the studio or we play something that wasn't played the way it was intended, and it sounds okay, we'll leave it. Yeah, we screw up constantly—I don't know any other band that's as sloppy as we are."

ABAND NAME LIKE Best Kissers In The World brings to mind a sexy female singing quartet in the vein of En Vogue. Not to mention the fact that, these days, any young band from Seattle instantly



triggers thoughts of grunge or flannel clothing. So does that mean that the Best Kissers In The World are four chicks from Seattle who play grinding, Nirvana-style rock? Hardly. While they do hail from Seattle, the four guys in the Best Kissers prefer to hammer out uplifting, catchy guitar-driven, punkinspired power-pop. And because of that, it comes as no surprise that the Best Kissers reject their native land.

"I wouldn't go as far as saying that we're hated in Seattle, but we certainly don't get any support from the local rock scene," says bassist Dave Swafford. "There are like four places to play and about 250 bands in Seattle, so we don't usually play there more than once aevery three months or so. Usually we have to go down to San Francisco or up to Portland to have a good show.

"We tend to lie a lot and tell people we're either from Chicago or Tuscon, so we can avoid that Seattle tag. We definitely don't want to be known or marketed as a Seattle band."

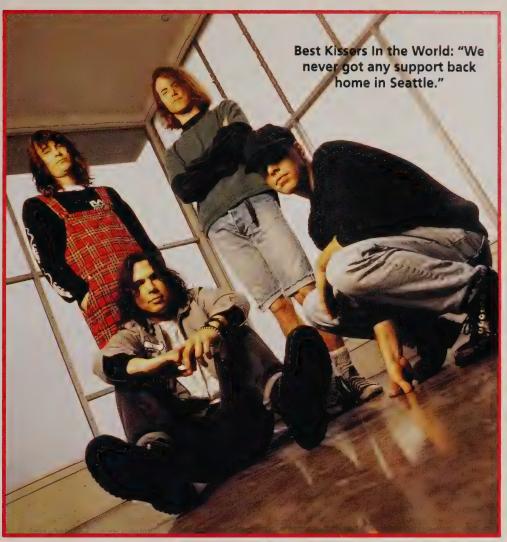
Since forming almost six years ago, the Best Kissers In The World have already released two mini-albums: a self-titled record on Sub Pop, and the other, relased a few months ago on MCA, called **Puddin'**.

While their quick jump from an indie like Sub Pop to a major like MCA seems only natural for an exciting group of musicians like the Best Kissers, even the band members recognize the fact that being on Sub Pop—the label that spawned such high-profile acts as Soundgarden and Nirvana—maybe have been benefiticial in being discovered by a bigger label.

"I'm not sure if it was true in our case, but I do think that a lot of Sub Pop bands, like Love Battery for example, and being courted by major labels simply because they're on a hip label like Sub Pop," says Swafford. "We agreed to sign with Sub Pop for one record only, and our main idea was to land a major label deal, which we did."

Currently, the Best Kissers are recoirding their first full-length album, due for release in August. And the game plan? "We just want to continue to pump out hooky, catchy sensible songs that appeal to people on all levels."

HILE CERTAINLY NOT THE type of alternative rock band usually featured in *Over The Edge*, one of the more interesting records to surface this year is **Dynamite Monster Boogie Concert**—the latest album from the asskickin'



Southern rock quintet, Raging Slab. Having formed in 1982, it's understandable that Raging Slab would draw influences primarily from '70s rock bands like Lynyrd Skynyrd, Led Zeppelin and even George Thorogood. Still the band is quite conscious of not sounding like just another classic rock band.

"I hope Dynamite Monster doesn't sound like a great lost album from the '70s," says singer/guitarist Greg Strzempka. "We're all basically children of the '70s, and we prefer to have people view us as an exercise in re-invention rather than being hopelessly derivative of our influences. To us no one really invented anything new in rock since (blues guitarist) Robert Johnson started howling 50 years ago."

And while the mebers of Raging Slab owe a lot to their hard rock forefathers, the band prefers to keep up with today's band instead of living in the past.

"There are a lot of older bands that we feel very akin to, but we also listen to—and appreciate—what a lot of the newer bands are doing, like Monster Magnet, Big Chief and even Teenage Fanclub," says Strzempka. "We feel that Raging Slab is definitely a band of the '90s, with musicians who love a lot

of albums from the '70s. That alternative-band snobbery like, 'Oh, that's not cool to listen to,' doesn't apply here. I've always known what was cool about bands like Twisted Sister."

In the three years since the band's last album, Raging Slab have had their share of troubles. After submitting three different albums to their then-label RCA, only to have them all rejected, the band was eventually dropped from the label. So, with no record company and very little suport from their hometown of New York City, they headed deep into the woods of Pennsylvania for a fresh start.

"We moved to a I40-acre farm in north-central Pennsylvania, built a studio on it and made this album," says Strzempka. "We had spent seven years as a New York band, and had been basically misunderstood and ignored by the local rock scene. After a while, we started feeling like we were being slapped around al the time. So we picked up and left in order to redefine what Raging Slab is all about—and it helped us make a great album.

"The worst thing that would happen while we were recording was arguing over who was going to do the dishes!"

# JUAS PHIEST

udas Priest. For nearly 20 years they ruled the metal world with an iron-fisted intensity that set the standards against which all pretenders to their throne had to be measured. Then, with alarming suddenness, it all came to a crashing halt. First came the announcement from vocalist Rob Halford that he was leaving the band, taking drummer Scott Travis with him to form a new group, Fight, and suing Priest's long-time record label, Sony Music. Then came word that the remaining members of Priest, bassist Ian Hill and guitarists K.K. Downing and Glenn Tipton were thinking of disbanding. It looked for all the world like the mighty Priest had come to an end. But then early this year, with Halford's resignation still stuck in their collective craw (apparently he faxed the band the news, not even confronting them), the Priest Beast fired back. The band issued a statement which, while taking some obvious potshots at the departed vocalist, at least gave hope to the band's suffering legion of supporters.

"As a result of various confusing press statements and actions of Rob Halford over the past few months," the statement said, "we three remaining members of Judas Priest have decided to break our silence. We feel we owe some explanation and information to our fans. We were informed of Rob Halford leaving the band by fax and to date have no satisfactory explanation for his actions, nor any direct contact with him. We are not party to any dispute he may have with Sony Music and are not familiar with the details or claims on either side. We are hoping to release a compilation in 1993 with the enthusiastic support of Sony Music, which will cover the entire career of Judas Priest and hopefully serve as a tribute to our many loyal and devoted

fans. Following the release of this product, we shall then concentrate and focus on the future of the band and the various options that are open to us."

So there seems to be good news and bad for Priest fans. First the good news: the group's 31-song compilation **Metalworks**, was recently released, once again establishing the fact that no band has ever played metal with more panache, style and variety than Judas Priest. While other hard rock bands may have presented

a more diverse musical attack, Priest never wallowed in pure pop sentimentality or acoustic tenderness. From the commercial accessibility of *Livin' After Midnight* and *Breakin' The Law* to the sheer sonic overkill of *The Ripper*, Priest continually proved they

now, they've taken on a new life. People who are truly familiar with that material will be amazed. Actually, the 31 songs on this compilation will hopefully represent only the first volume of **Metalworks**. If this one proves successful, we'd like to come out with a second volume by year's end."

end." Glenn Tipton: Waiting to make his next move. PHOTO: ANNAMARIA DISANTO could do it all.

"The compilation is something that's been on our minds for quite a while," Downing said. "We thought about doing it even before the situation with Rob came about. **Metalworks** was a very exciting project for us because it allowed us to gather together the best material from the last 20 years, and digitally remaster all of the early stuff. It's amazing to hear them

Obviously, the **Metalworks** collection will serve to bide some time for Priest's three continuing members. It will keep the band's name and music prominently in the marketplace while they all wait patiently and with keen interest to see how the public responds to Halford's new Fight project. If that album catches commercial fire, it could spell the

## TIME OF DECISION

### "We have a long-standing relationship with Rob and **BY WINSTON CUMMINGS** that's not going to change very easily."

end for Judas Priest—at least the Priest we know and love. But should the album fail, the door has been left open for the return of Halford and Travis.

"We still have a long-standing relationship with Rob, and that's not going to change very easily," Downing said. "There's no real animosity on our part. It is safe to say that we wished matters had

some new kinds of music is far from news to us. But we'll just have to see what happens with his new band in the months ahead. We're certainly not going to make any decisions about which direction the band might take until we have as much information at our disposal as we

part of Priest's commercial formula. While some industry experts applaud Halford's gutsy move, most feel that no matter how strong Fight's debut disc may be, Halford is "fighting" an uphill battle to attain anywhere near the kind of success he's enjoyed with Priest. Will selling maybe 100,000 albums and playing in clubs

satisfy Halford's metal soul? For a time it will. But then the lure of Priest's larger audience, in both an album sales and concert venue sense, may well lure him back into

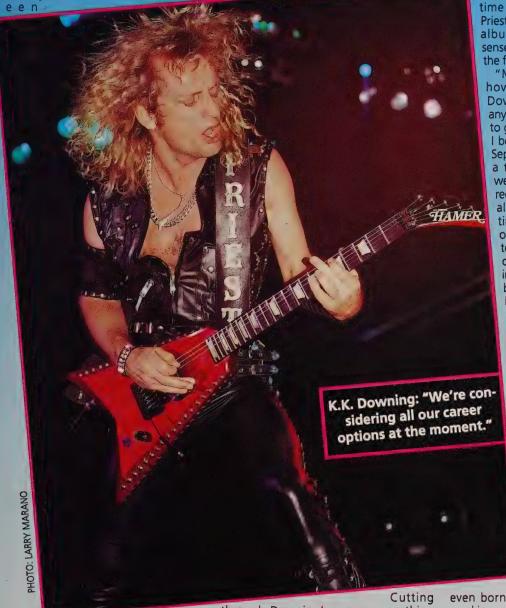
the fold.

"Much obviously depends on how the Fight album does," Downing agreed. "I don't think anyone is sure where Rob is going to go with that band in the future. I believe their album is due out in September, and I'm sure there'll be a tour after that. So I doubt if we'll be making many decisions in regard to Priest's fate until that's all over with. But in the mean time, we're considering all the options. Glenn and I recently got together to discuss matters, and of course the option of continuing on with another singer was brought up. We realize Judas Priest without Rob Halford would be a different band. We'd rather continue on as we have. I don't think that's out of the question, even if Rob continues on with his new group. Perhaps he'll take some time after their tour is finished to work with us in the studio. Rob has never been one to enjoy taking a rest. At the end of one tour, he's always the one ready to start the next."

So at the moment the future of Judas Priest remains unfocused and unclear. Certainly Metalworks has already sparked renewed interest in the band, bringing in younger

fans, some of whom weren't even born when the Priest first began cranking out their metal anthems in 1973. Absence has always made the heart grow fonder in rock and roll terms, and perhaps the thought of losing Judas Priest will be enough to inspire all involved to make sure that the Priest Beast will rise again.

"We believe there is still plenty of life in Judas Priest," Downing said. "One way or the other the fans will find that out."



handled a little differently, but I imagine Rob felt that he had to handle matters as he did in order to obtain a record deal for Fight. I think I would have handled things guite differently, but that really doesn't matter. Rob has always been someone who's done things his own way, and the fact that he's wanted to explore

through Downing's answer, one thing becomes obvious—Judas Priest has no burning desire to continue without Rob Halford. And perhaps, in their heart of hearts they feel they might not have to. The vocalist has made it clearly known that Fight's album carries him into "more modern" metal frontiers, playing with a raw aggression that he feels can no longer be

# \* SHOOTING STARS \*

### **ASPHALT BALLET**

It's one of those names that just sticks in your brain. Asphalt Ballet; two words that seemingly go together like fire and ice. Yet, there's no better description of this Chicago-based quintet's style than their unusual name. Asphalt Ballet; cold and

hard, sophisticated and intriguing. On their second album, Pigs, guitarists Danny Clarke and Julius Ulrich, bassist Terry Phillips, drummer Mikki Kiner and new vocalist Tommy Dean have really hit their stride. They've produced a series of eminently listenable, yet uniquely bizarre songs that run the gamut from the gritty reality of Daddy's Dyin' to the heart-felt plea for child welfare, Save The Children. It's a strange brew of rock and roll stew presented by Asphalt Ballet, but it seems that they're one band that's really got something special to say.

"We're finally as strong as we want to be," Clarke said. "This is the lineup we've

wanted to have since we first got together. We wanted Tommy in this group since 1989, but he had other commitments at the time. But now we've got him, and we're keepin' him."

Apparently vocalist Dean was signed to another record label when Asphalt Ballet first got together, and while his heart has always been with this group, his body had to be someplace else. Now, however, with his contractual problems behind him, Dean has been able to ad his unique vocal stylings to such rockers as *Crash Diet*, a song that just so happens to be cowritten by a certain Mr. Axl Rose. But before you think Asphalt Ballet are trying to ride on anyone else's coat tails, these guys will straighten you out. They're out to make it strictly on their own terms.

"Crash Diet just happens to be a song that came our way," Dean said. "It's a great song, so we decided to do it. But the rest of the material is ours, and we're very proud of it. We know Asphalt Ballet is gonna make a mark, and it's gonna be a very special mark."



### THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS

What makes The Pursuit of Happiness unique? They're real, they're rowdy, they're sexy and their smart. Main dude Moe Berg "uses sexual imagery to bring a '90s realism to his expressions of affection and qualifies his lustful outbursts with an intellectual twist." Tunes on The Pursuit of Happiness' third album, The Downward Road, drive with intensity, and the lyrical mood is slightly kinky.

"When I first started writing for the album, I used that idea of The Downward Road, or the road to Hell, as the centerpiece conceptually," notes Berg. "It's not literally about the road to hell, but more about things falling apart, the descent of adulthood."



The Downward Road combines the grinding guitars of Berg and Chris Abbott, the brash bash of bassist Brad Barker and drummer Dave Gilby and the powerful vocals of Rachel Oldfield with bubblegum harmonies—it's sorta like Metallica meets the Archies. Tunes like Cigarette Dangles and the obsessive Nobody But Me, have a comic grunge while Pressing Lips may make you giggle with delight.

TPOH first reared their mopped tops on the music scene in Toronto in 1986. Their early albums, Love Junk and One Sided Story were produced by Todd Rundgren and brought them much critical acclaim, but did little to enhance their pocketbooks. The Downward Road will be The Pursuit of Happiness' breakthrough to mass acclaim.

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# CELEBRITY RATE-A-VIDEO BY GAIL FLUG

Mike Portnoy and Kevin Moore:

The Jackyl video looks like some-

thing Twisted Sister

would have done."

The members of Dream Theater claim their influences range from progressive rock like Rush and Yes to heavy stuff like Metallica and The Red Hot Chili Peppers. Keep this in mind as drummer Mike Portnoy and keyboardist Kevin Moore sit through the widest range of videos we could dig up for them.

### Pride And Joy, Coverdale/Page

**Mike:** I could tell you already I like the automated mixing board effect.

**Kevin:** They're keeping it quite exciting for a live-in-the-studio video.

**Mike:** I like the song a lot. It's the way it should be, Whitesnake meets Zeppelin. I think they accomplished their goal.

too straight for me. Even on *Cult Of Personality* which was very straightahead, he had these great fills.

**Kevin:** Yeah, it's quite annoying. They are really good musicians.

### Intruder, M.O.D.

**Mike:** I really can't say anything bad 'cause I know Billy Milano and he'll kick my ass. the music is much more raw and hardcore, more hardcore than any other of the M.O.D. albums which were more thrashy.

**Kevin:** I don't know if it's the video deck, but it's kinda hard to get through the production. I wouldn't say I don't like it though...

### Are You Gonna Go My Way, Lenny Kravitz

Mike: Excellent! I just picked this up

Kevin: I think this is the best pseudolooking performance video I've seen in a long time. There's a lot of space, everyone is grooving and having a good time. But I wanna know if these people paid extras 'cause they are all wearing the same '60s type clothing.

**Mike:** I agree with Kevin, this is a really great video, and the bass player looks like Noel Redding from Jimi Hendrix's old band. Lenny Kravitz is another person I always loved 'cause he's like a cross between the Beatles and Hendrix-acidrock sort of thing.

### Ordinary World, Duran Duran

Mike: I swear to God I just picked this one up today too. I wanted it because Zappa's old guitarist is in the band now, but I'm embarrassed to say I love this song. And they always had really great videos. I hate to admit it but I always liked them.

**Kevin:** The song doesn't do anything for me...the production is obviously very

good.

Mike: You're gonna hear this song for months and it'll grow on you. Trust me. The melody and the progression are far too good.

### Cover My Eyes, Marillion

Mike: Thank you for showing this to us. I never saw this before.

Kevin: I never understood why these guys never made it here, at least in the pop genre. The song is catchy, has a

nice build to it. The video is kinda busy though, but it doesn't matter. The song is great.

**Mike:** There's not enough of the other band members. We've always been big Marillion fans, the old stuff, the new stuff.

### The Three Pigs, Green Jello

Mike: These guys were in the studio when we shot MTV's Headbangers Ball and one of them had three foot boots on. This is good, the video reminds me of old Primus videos. But the song sounds like a bad King Diamond impression. But it's funny. They are the best thing since Gwar

**Kevin:** I hate the song, but the video is very funny. Very entertaining.

### Down On Me, Jackyl

**Kevin:** Could you just write Mike laughed at the opening riff...

Mike: I'm sorry, but I have trouble taking these guys seriously. They are trying to be serious in this video and it's not working. They will forever be remembered as lumberjacks.

**Kevin:** I do like this song better though. The stage idea with

the parental advisory sticker is cool. And his hair is really fluffy.

**Mike:** The concept is pretty cool. It's a very early '80s video. It looks like something Twisted Sister would have done.

**Kevin:** But does the song have anything to do with the theme of the video? That is the question.

### Leave It Alone, Living Colour

**Mike:** Just for the record, I love this band. We went to school with their drummer, Will Calhoun.

**Kevin:** This song is cool. The video has a nice look to it, I like all the colors, it's very liquid.

Mike: The only thing that bugs me is the drummer is playing straight two/four throughout the entire song and it's a bit



Mike: I just bought this CD. It's cool, it's fun, it's zany just like the band itself. And did I mention funky?

**Kevin:** The video definitely reflects the style of the band. It's an exciting video to watch 'cause it's not repetitive.

### Pound For Pound, Pro-Pain

Mike: These guys are our buddies.

**Kevin:** I'm really proud of these guys 'cause they did a really great album. I like the rap kinda groove on the drums upon the heavier thrasher style of the vocals.

Mike: I'd just like to say that Gary and Slate are my homeboys and I'll gladly masturbate to anything they put out.

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# HOBBY

BY JODI SUMMERS

# SHOP

We know Vince Neil likes fast cars and pretty women. We know that his fondness for his hobbies helped cost his him job with Motley Crue. But when we approached Vince about doing a little "shop" talk, he insisted that his only real hobby at the moment was his music. Well, we're not the kind of guys who like to argue, so we let Vince have his way in this month's Hobby Shop.

here are always things going on in my life," chuckled Vince Neil. No kidding. In little more than the year that he's been gone from Motley Crue, Vince has put together a band, negotiated an \$18 million dollar, five-album deal with Warner Brothers Records, divorced his wife, and put together his first album, X-Posed.

In the short time between the album's creation and its release, major changes have taken place in Vince's life. Long-time friend and talented bassist Phil Soussan, who worked on **X-Posed**, has parted ways with Vince. As well, there have been other changes in his personal life. You want to know the details of this dirt? Well, read on...

# VINCE MEIL



PHOTO: NEIL ZLOZOWER

**Hit Parader:** What happened with Phil Soussan?

Vince Neil: Phil is a great guy, and a great bass player. He was also the first guy I had gotten into the band. After him was my drummer, Vikki Fox, then my guitarists Steve Stevens and Robbie Crane. When we were recording X-Posed, we realized Phil's bass style just didn't gel with everybody else's playing. That's not saying he's a bad bass player, he's just different...It just didn't click. So, rather than wait until after we do the big hype thing, we decided to change the lineup before everything got too involved—the album cover and videos and stuff like that. We're still great friends, we still hang out. We've been buds for like ten years.

**HP:** So, you moved Robbie back over to bass.

VN: Right. Robbie is a bass player. When I was putting the band together, I didn't want

to have a three piece band like Motley was, I wanted to have a rhythm guitar player. And, even though Robbie was playing when we met, he plays really good rhythm guitar. But, he really is a bass player, so it was easy to move him back over.

HP: Is Robbie glad to be back on bass?

**VN:** He's more comfortable on bass than he was on rhythm guitar, so he's thrilled. I'm glad too, because he's really a good bass player.

**HP:** Your new rhythm guitar player, Dave Marshall, played with Fiona. So how did you get him into your band?

VN: Dave was actually a friend of Robbie's...a friend of mine through Robbie. When we started auditioning guitar players, Dave seemed to fit right in. He can play. He's a lead guitar player. What's cool is that we rewrote some of the songs so there are dual guitar

things happening. Steve plays part of it and Dave plays part of it—like Judas Priest. We've got that feel to the band. It's pretty cool.

**HP:** Having a dual lead deal isn't a problem for Steve?

VN: Not at all. I left it up to Steve to pick the guitar player, because I don't want anybody stepping on his shoes. He's got to really get along with him. Dave is the guy Steve wanted...So let's go!

**HP:** When did you decide to record the Sweet song, *Set Me Free?* 

VN: I've been a Sweet fan...forever...since Desolation Boulevard came out. That was always my favorite song on the album. As a matter of fact, I tried to do it with Motley, and it just didn't sound right, so we never did it. But I always said to myself, if I ever had the chance, I'd really like to do that song. It's pretty obscure, but it's really cool.

**HP:** When we last spoke, you were telling me all about the song *Forever*, you said, "It's a song I wrote about Sharise and me." Now you've split up. What happened?

VN: The song will tell you. I don't want to get into it...it's just something that happened. We're still good friends, and I still visit our daughter Skylar ever day. It's been tough, but I've got so much to do with the music that it pretty much takes my mind off it. The music was a big part of the problem. Now that I'm out of Motley Crue and have my own band, I'm the one that has to take all the pressure. I have to be involved with every little aspect of everything, whereas with Motley there were always three other guys to pick up the slack. So this new band has taken up a lot of my time and things just happened.

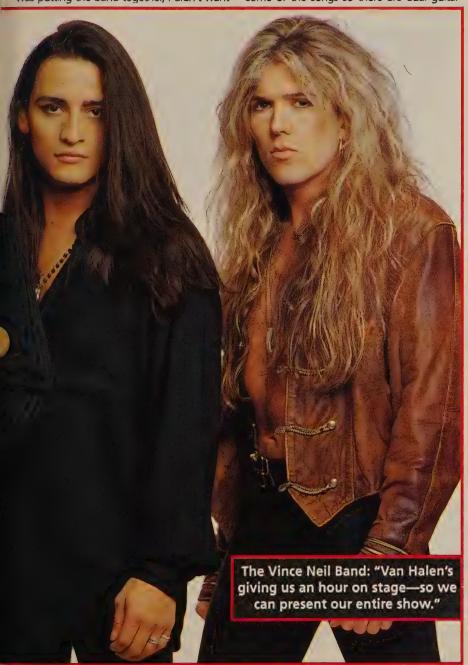
**HP:** Where are you living now?

**VN:** (Vince adopts the voice of a Don Juan) I live at a posh Beverly Hills hotel.

**HP:** What are your tour plans?

VN: We're going to open up for Van Halen for two months...June 24th is the first date. With this band never playing a live gig, opening was something we had to do. And, I think it's going to be a lot of fun. They're giving us an hour to play, and all the sound—so it's not like we're a 35-minute opening act, we can present our show. It's going to get the band tight. Afterward, we'll do Japan, and then we're going to come back and do a headlining tour. But first, we want to get real tight...smoking.

**HP:** The Van Halen tour is a great package...where are you going to be playing? **VN:** Mostly the outdoor sheds this summer. Which is great, because you don't have to worry about lights and stuff. When we go on, it should be sunset going into dusk, so we won't be using much of the lighting, there won't be any need. We're just going to go out there and have a great time. We're really looking forward to it.





#### CONTAGIOUS, ANOTHER HUMAN **INTEREST STORY**

We'll avoid all the cutesy comments like "Contagious' music is really contagious." But the fact is that the metallic sounds brought forth by this New England-based quartet really are kinda...well, you know. Hard, driving and unrelenting, the music of bassist Marc Stella, vocalist Ed Newbert, quitarist Jim Teixeira and drummer Bob Mercier starts out at your toes and doesn't stop 'till it's gripping at your throat. As times, such light-

hearted fare is generally looked down upon by true-blue headbangers. But don't be fooled! Such songs as Shoot Down The Memory, Open Up The Balcony and If Love Is So Blind are just plain fun to listen to. There's no big message here, and no hidden anger creeping into every guitar riff. This is metal for the masses—at least if American Angel get the kind of big time break they deserve.

Rating: \*\*

#### JACK BRUCE, SOMETHINELS

We can hear all of you out there saying, "What the hell is an old fart like Jack Bruce doing in the Indie Reviews column?" That is, of course, if you little mushheads even know who Jack Bruce is. Well, back in the late '60s Jack Bruce was the bassist and vocalist for Cream, one of the first commercially successful heavy metal bands (did ya ever hear of Sunshine Of Your Love, White Room or Tales Of Brave Ulysses? No, well then shaddup!) In Cream, one of Bruce's musical partners was guitarist Eric Clapton (yeah, the guy who sings those wimpy songs on Unplugged). The other, by the way, was drummer Ginger Baker who's still going strong as a member of Masters Of Reality. The point of all this (we bet you thought there was no point) is that Clapton appears on three tracks on Bruce's latest album, Somethinels. If you liked Cream,



Another Human Interest Story, these guys can play rock the way it was meant to be played—loud and simple. While such tunes as Larry and Taste My World occasionally border on the mindlessly vapid, there's just enough substance here to make Contagious downright contagious. Rating:\*\*\*

#### AMERICAN ANGEL, EP 92

Why are we reviewing something titled EP '92 in the middle of '93? Well, the answer is that this disc didn't cross our desk funtil well into the new year, and the music on it is so good that we figured it's better late than never. American Angel plays the brand of radio-ready hard rock that used to be metal's bread and butter during the '80s. Of course, in these grunge-worthy

#### KREATOR, RENEWAL

Kreator has been hangin' around the metal scene for years, just waiting for their chance to score. With their latest release, Renewal, Mille Petrozza and the boys have stuck to what has become their triedand-true riff-mad style, and the results, while occasionally awesome, seem destined to keep them a solid step away from the big time. New tunes like Winter Martyrium, Reflection and Brainseed are hard and heavy-filled with cerebral lyrics and solid instrumental work. Yet things occasionally seem soooo labored and ponderous, as if every note Kreator played carried the weight of the world on its shoulders. Certainly Kreator are a talented band, but their act is getting a little old. Rating: \*\*

checking this out...maybe not. Rating:\*

#### THE UNLOVED, THE UNLOVED

One listen to this record will tell you why these guys are unloved. It's not that it's bad—in fact some songs are pretty darn good—it's just that it doesn't seem to go anywhere. The music of The Unloved falls between easily classifiable musical categories, and while that's certainly not a crime, in the case of vocalist James D. Grant, guitarists Tommy LaFrance and Chris Pasek, bassist Art Green and drummer Ward Fletcher it kind of makes them a band without a home. Being neither fish nor fowl works for some bands, but in this case it leaves The Unloved out in the cold. Rating: \*\*

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#### THE STORY BEHIND THE SONG: ENUFF Z'NUFF'S SUPERSTITIOUS

ometimes songs inadvertantly predict the future. '60 Surfer dudes Jan and Dean seemed to have predicted a near fatal car crash for Jan in their song Deadman's Curve. AC/DC's Highway to Hell took on special meaning

for the group after Bon Scott died. According to Enuff Z'nuff frontman Donnie Vie, Superstitious was written "many moons ago," with the original band guitarist Gino Martino, and "it had no meaning to us. The words just fit in a groove." Through the "moons" Donnie never cared much for the song because it had more of a heavy groove with emphasis on rhythm rather than melody, which Donnie likes. Bandmate Chip Z'nuff loved the song and kept suggesting it for albums, but the band's old record company Atco Records, their producers, and Donnie kept saying "No, I don't like it."

Again with the third album, Animals With Human Intelligence, Chip suggested the band record it, and their new record company, Arista loved the song. With it reborn in Enuff Z'Nuff's repertoire, Donnie realized the lyrics meant something—they tell his story! "It's a really basic message in a two minute lyric. They apply to our lives now a whole lot more than they did when we wrote them. 'It's a brand new day'—it was a struggle working with Atco, touring, and doing all kinds of drugs and everything," Donnie said, remembering how Enuff Z'nuff was turning into losers in their game. Now that he's chemicalfree and has the support of a new record company, he really believes,"This is your lucky day!"

But is Donnie, himself, superstitious? "I don't know if I believe in that whole thing. That's something you'll have to ask me a few years down the line!"





#### **SUPERSTITIOUS**

Donnie Vie Chip Z'nuff Gino Martino

As recorded by ENUFF Z'NUFF

We seen you in the underground a loser to your game, the people that yuou hung around have led you all astray.

Hey, don't superstitious this is your lucky day. There's a brand new situtation you're the one that's here to stay!

Seems you don't have the grind to get you through the line.
Now you're stuck in overdrive.
And all you need is time.

Hey, don't be superstitutious this is your lucky day. There's a brand new situation You're the one that's here to stay

When all you want are drugs and money nothing can come quick enuff. Everything in this world is funny. You got to bear it all, hold on and just be tough

Seen you in the underground, a loser to your game. But now I think you'll stick around everyone will know your name.

Hey, don't be superstitious this is your lucky day, there's a brand new situation. You're the one that's here to stay

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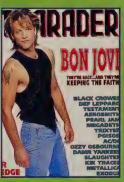




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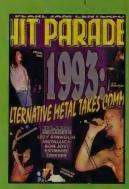
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Steve Clark Phil Collen Joe Elliott Robert June "Mutt" Lange Rick Savage

As recorded by DEF LEPPARD

I don't wanna play the waiting game and drift away leavin' an illusion. I don't wanna hide, it's foolish pride to close my eye a touch away from wantin' you.

Don't try to look away when you're face to face.

I see your eyes—that animal emotion.

You don't have to set your tender

It's in those eyes, it's gonna happen anyway.

Movin' to the rhythm of your heartbeat

I'm wantin', willin', touchin' you, we'll be

movin' top the rhythm of your heart-

Ooh baby, when you get that rhythm gonna move into your room.

Tonight—gimme love with no disguise.

Tonight—I see the fire in your eyes. Tonight—so right this night could be dynamite.

Wait'n'see, if it please you, it pleases me.

There's nothing I can say, it's no mystery.

It's in your eyes, those eyes are where I wanted them.

So give me heart'n'soul, I lose control.

Can't stop my eyes from fallin' into

fantasy.

Movin' to the rhythm of your heartbeat.

I'm wantin', willin', touchin', you, we'll be

movin' to the rhythm of your heartbeat.

Ooh baby, when you get that rhythm gonna move into your room.

Tonight—gimme love with no dis-

Tonight—I see the fire in your eyes. Tonight—I wanna win the greatest prize.

Tonight—so right, this night could be dynamite.

Wait'n'see, if it pleases you, it pleases me.

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#### MY NAME IS MUD

As recorded by PRIMUS

Tim Alexander Larry Lalonde Les Claypool

My name is Mud Not to be confused with Bill or Jack or Pete or Dennis. My name is mud and it's always been... 'cause I'm the most boring sons-abitch you've ever seen.

I dress in blue—yes, navy blue. From head to toe I'm rather drab, except my patent shoes. I make 'em shine, well most the time.

'cept today my feet are troddin' on by this friend of mine. Six foot two and rude as hell. I got to get him in the ground before he starts to smell.

My name is Mud. My name is Mud, but call me Alowishus Devadander Abercromble.

That's long for Mud, so I've been told.

Told that by this sonsabitch that lies before me bloated blue and cold. I've got my pride. I drink my wine. I'd drink the finest except I haven't earned a dime in several months, or were it years.

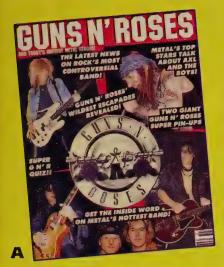
The breath on that fat bastard could bring any man to tears.

We had our words—a common spat, so I kissed him supside the cranium with an aluminum baseball bat. My name is Mud.

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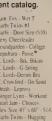
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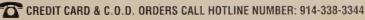
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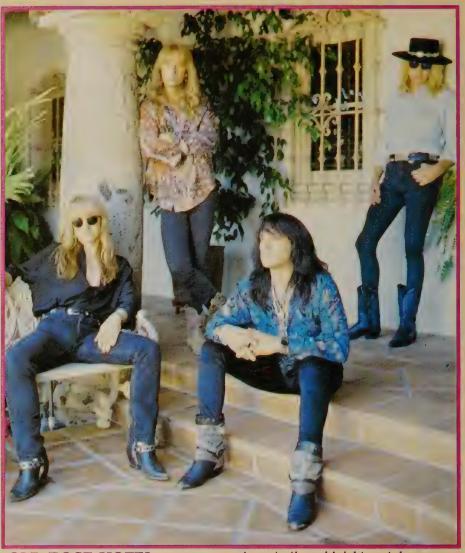
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#### **OLD ROSE MOTEL**

Michael Lardie Alan Niven

As recorded by GREAT WHITE

I see you bleed—
the feelings you close up.
I know the pain
that you hide.
Oh baby, please,
don't be no close out.
Stay with me
thru the night.

Needles street ain't no answer. Can't dream a heartache away. Let the need be your master. All of your dreams fade away.

Everything you want, everything you want, anything you want, anything you want you can find right here.

Ah no, don't go

down to the midnight motel. Oh no, so low can't find no heaven in hell.

There's a silence that comes in the morning, leaves you screamin' at the wall as you sit there in your easy chair chasin' demons at a crawl.

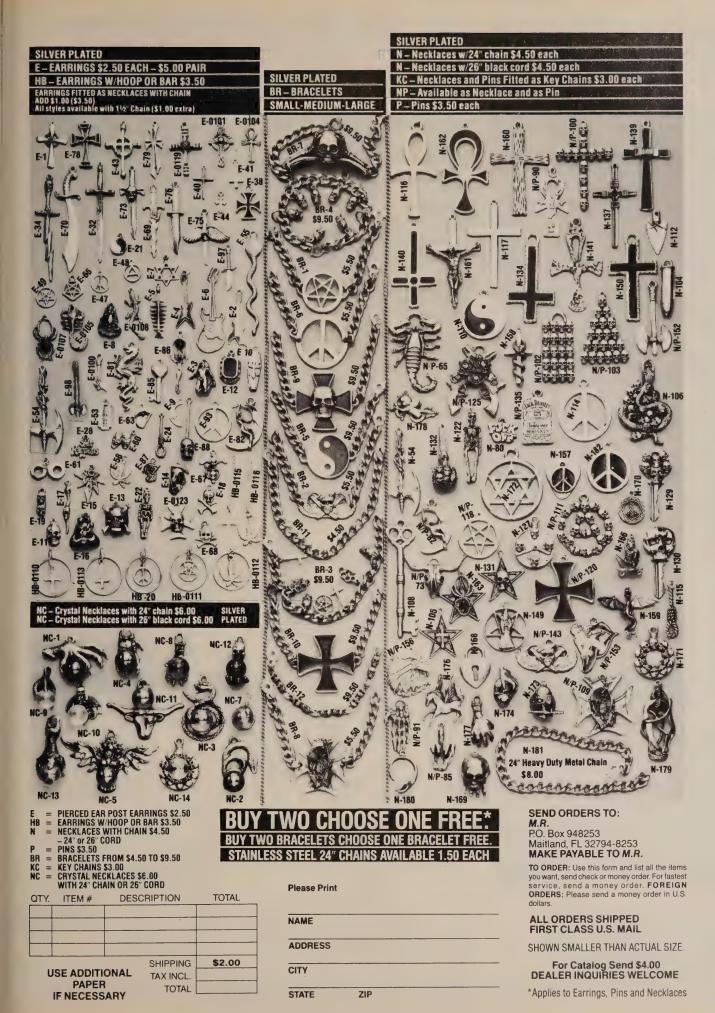
When you feel that you'll never find somewhere y'll be safe to lie.
Just take a look over here.
Together we'll rise in a mornin' glory.

Anything you want, anything you want, everything you want, everything you want you can find it right here.

Don't go.
Don't go
down to the Old Rose Motel.

Oh no, don't go down to the Old Rose Motel.

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wife and kids, household pet. Army green was no safe bet the bullets scream to me from somewhere

Here they come to snuff the rooster. Yeah, here come the rooster You know he ain't gonna die

Walkin' tall machine gun man—
they spit on me in my homeland
Gloria sent me pictures
of my boy.
Got my pills 'gainst
mosquito death.
My buddy's breathin'
his dyin' breath,
Oh God, please won't you help
me make it through?

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once again challenge both his audience and himself. Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't. Outstanding tracks like Calling On You and the Zeppelinesque 29 Palms are balanced by a series of more mundane efforts that lack true artistic fire. This is certainly a noble album, and for anyone other than an artist of Plant's stature it might be regarded as something of a masterwork. But for Robert Plant, a very good album's simply not enough.

KISS, ALIVE III

For years the rock world waited for another live album from Kiss. And they waited...and waited...and waited. Finally, some I5 years after their first two historic inconcert collections were released comes Kiss Alive III—and it's an album worth waiting for. Rather than following the temptation to focus only on the post-Ace and Peter, post-makeup material, Simmons, Stanley and crew go for it, providing a hefty dose of both

clockwork, the Hit Parader staff drops whatever else they're doing to gather together and listen to the latest hard rock releases. The diet cola flows, the popcorn is poppped and a grand time is had by all. (Hey, do you believe we get paid for doing this crap?) We call this activity Hit Or Miss.

#### WINGER, PULL

Winger was one of rock's hottest bands when their debut album was released three years ago. Since then the Winger wagon has lost some of its momentum; their second LP sold a quarter of what their illustrious debut managed. But now Kip and the boys are back in fine fettle with **Pull**, a hard-hitting rock and roll showcase that allows the band to show

off not only their deft songwriting skills but their multi-faceted instrumental prowess as well. From the opening licks of *Blind Revolution Mad* to the closing notes of *Who's The One*, this is an album that seems destined to get Winger back on the commercial fast track.

HIT

#### SACRED REICH, INDEPENDENT

For six years Sacred Reich has labored as one of the hardest, heaviest, most intriguing bands around. Yet since they were on a relatively small indie label, they never received the kind of push their music warranted. Now, however with the release of their major label debut LP, Independent, these Arizona thrash masters seem like they've finally got things going their way. This is strong stuff. Tracks like Free and

WINGER

Supremacy vibrate with passion and sincerity as bassist/vocalist Phil Rind digs deep to unveil some previously hidden sides of the band's artistic personality. For a long time people dismissed S.R. saying, "They coulda been a contender." Now these boys have a chance to battle for the recognition they deserve.

ROBERT PLANT, FATE OF NATIONS

Robert Plant has had an unpredictable post-Led Zeppelin career. Some of his albums have been stirring, soul-searching rock that has proven he is among the most talented performers ever to pick up a microphone. Others have been somewhat heavy-handed attempts that failed to hit on all cylinders. With his latest, **Fate Of Nations**, Plant makes a noble attempt to

their early favorites as well as their most recent hits. In contrast to the occasionally shaky sound of their earlier live discs, **III** sounds like Kiss is live in your living room, cranking out their "klassics" as only they can.

#### **GREEN JELLO, CEREAL KILLER**

Okay, okay already. There seems to be a major push on to make these Green Jello people some sort of anti-hit hits. They know they suck, everyone who hears them know they suck, yet there is supposed to be some kind of endearing quality to acknowledging that you're just a joke. Okay, we agree they suck and anyone who spends their money to buy a copy of **Cereal Killer** is obviously doing so just to have something to play that they know will really annoy their parents.

MISS

90 HIT PARADER

#### NATIONAL TOP TEN

- Coverdale/Page, Coverdale/Page
- Pearl Jam, Ten
- Ugly Kid Joe,
  - **America's Least Wanted**
- Stone Temple Pilots, Core
- Bon Jovi, Keep The Faith
- Metallica, Metallica
- Van Halen, Live: Right Here, **Right Now**
- Alice In Chains, Dirt
- Green Jello, Cereal Killer Soundtrack
- 10. Soul Asylum, Grave Dancer's Union

#### HIT PARADER TOP TEN

- 1. Winger, Pull
- Kiss, Alive III
- Anthrax, Sound of White Noise
- Van Halen, Live: Right Here, **Right Now**
- Coverdale/Page, Coverdale/Page
- Sacred Reich, Independent
- W.A.S.P., The Crimson Idol
- Down The Machine.
- Down The Machine Monster Magnet, Super Judge
- 10. Aerosmith, Get A Grip

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# HIT PARADER'S NEW VIDEO GAMES COLUMN

BY JEFF KITTS

#### **FLASHBACK**

Genesis
U.S. Gold/Delphine Software

Touted as "the first CD-Rom game in a cartridge," Flashback further renders the Sega CD system impotent. For months now, you've been subjected to a relentless stream of hype from other magazines who hadn't even played the game yet—with gushing praise based

Tony LaRussa Baseball:

At an expensive price,

it isn't a homer!

on little more than cool game screen shots and advertising. Now, the time has come to put Flashback on trial and see what's really going on in this much-ballyhooed cart from the fine French folks at Delphine Software. So, what's the verdict? G-U-I-L-T-Y: of intense video gaming in the first, second and third degrees!! In short, Flashback is as close to a perfect game as anyone has come yet. As Conrad B. Hart, you travel through seven exciting levels of inter-

planetary adventure; drawing your pistol in time to shoot the nasty guards, leaping over bottomless chasms, collecting necessary items and exploring complex lands until your hands throb. The beauty of Flashback lies in its wonderful mix of action, adventure, intelligence, challenge and general fun—it's like playing the lead role in a riveting sci-fi movie where you control all the action. It's the kind of compelling game that'll make you forget about all your other carts and CDs. If you buy only one game this summer, make it Flashback—even at its high \$65.00 retail price, you can't go wrong.

Graphics: 9/Sound: 8.5/Controls: 9/Overall: 9.5

#### STARFOX SNES

Nintendo

Like Flashback, Starfox for the SNES has been hyped more intensely and for more months than a new Guns N' Roses album. And while the last GN'R album(s) didn't live up to its hype, Starfox delivers even better than expected. Utilizing the power of the revolutionary Super FX chip, Starfox is easily one of the most exciting

space-shooters to ever grace the 16-bit market—sort of like a home version of the brilliant deluxe arcade game, *Star Blade*. As Fox McCloud, you pilot your Arwing fighter ship through almost 20 levels of lightning-fast, meteor-dodging, laser-blasting 3-D galactic warfare. But, as impressively dizzying as the game is to look at, is it fun to play? You bet. The action is intense, the challenge level is appropriately difficult, and getting past the various hazards requires a certain amount of patience and intelligence—more so than most no-brainer shoot-'em-ups out there. for fans of grueling, white-knuckled ship-to-ship battles, *Starfox* is a blessing to the SNES. **Graphics: 9.5/Sound: 8/Controls: 9.5/Overall: 9** 

#### **TONY Larussa Baseball**

Genesis Electronic Arts

From EA, the geniuses who brought us NHLPA '93 and Madden '93, two of the finest sports games in the history of home gaming, comes Tony LaRussa Baseball, the company's foray into the incredibly-difficult-to-master world of 16-bit baseball. And while this insanely expensive cart (it retails for \$70.00) isn't a strike-out by any means, it's certainly no homer either. While NHLPA '93 offers fluid, non-stop action from the opening face off to the final buzzer, Tony LaRussa Baseball is surprisingly slow and clunky. In fact, fielders move so sluggishly, inside-the-park homers, and runners on first reaching second on a ball hit slowly up the middle are not uncom-

mon!! But that isn't to say

that this cart doesn't provide its share of decent baseball action, because it does. The pitchers and batters are both drawn quite well, and move very realistically; the number of options and possibilities are endless: and stat-hounds will worship the game's over-use of insignificant numerical figures. But for those looking for a sports game as intense as EA's NHLPA, Madden or Bulls Vs. Lakers, forget it-

and move tically; the of option sibilities a and stawill we game's of in sign numeric But for ing for game as EA' Madde Vs. Lakers, because Tony LaRussa just doesn't score.

Graphics: 8/Sound: 6/Controls: 6/Overall: 7.5

Graphics: 8/Sound: 6/Controls: 6/Overall: 7.5

#### **DOOMSDAY WARRIOR**

SNES Renovation

Ugh. With Street Fighter 2 still ruling the fighting game market—and Mortal Kombat on the way—blase' punch-'em-out games like Qoomsday Warrior serve no useful purpose. The concept of this one-on-one fighting game is, by now, all too common—a horde of reptilian warriors battle against one another, using a limited array of textbook fighting skills (uppercut, kicks, jumps, jabs and a few special moves) to annihilate their opponents. And while this typical scenario works brilliantly in SF2, Doomsday Warrior offers nothing new to fight fans. The graphics are simplistic, the controls awkward—and most importantly, the combat action is greatly deprived of any lasting intensity and excitement. Doomsdsay Warrior does have its merits, though, and certainly isn't a horrible cart by any means—it's just a few years too late, and not impressive enough by today's standards.

Graphics: 7/Controls: 6/Sound: 6.5/Overall: 6.5



# GEARING UP TECHTALK BY ROB ANDREWS

## POISON'S RICHIE KOTZEN

It ain't easy being the (pardon the expression) new kid on the block. Just ask Poison's new guitarist Richie Kotzen. He's had to step into some pretty big shoes—those worn by the often unpredictable, but always exciting C.C. DeVille-and fill them in a hurry. He's had to convince the band's millions of fans that he's worthy of assuming the six string mantle of one of rock's most successful bands. And he's had to prove to his new bandmates-vocalist Bret Michaels, bassist Bobby Dall and drummer Rikki Rockett—that they made the right choice when they selected him from a talented list of candidates all of whom were vying for the coveted position as the guitarist in a platinum coated band. But young Mr. Kotzen has handled these problems quite well, thank you, showing that he's got the personality, the talent and the balls to take on a mansized opportunity and handle it with seeming ease. As shown on Poison's new album, Native Tongue, this is one guitar hot shot that's got his head screwed on both right and tight!

His Parader: Has it been difficult adapting to being a member of a highly visible and successful band like Poison?

It hasn't been difficult for me on a personal or musical level. But some of the things you have to do, like interviews, are a little difficult to adapt to. I'm an artist, so I guess I'd rather have my music speak for me than words. It's very hard to describe verbally what you're trying to do in your music.

What qualities do you feel you bring to the band?

playing, so whatever I've listened to and absorbed over the years is now part of Poison. I grew up as a hard rock kid, and those are my primary influences. But I also loved some R & B stuff, especially Stevie Wonder and SIy & The Family Stone. So all of that went into my playing, and it's all now part of Poison. I brought songs like Stand and Fire And Ice with me when I joined the band. They were intended for my next solo album. So I think I've made my contributions as something more than just a guitar player.

I don't know exactly what C.C.'s influences were, but I've got to figure they were a little different than mine. All you've got to do is listen to the last few Poison albums, and then listen to this one, and you'll hear what I bring into the band.

HP You've called yourself an artist, and those who know your solo work will agree with that. But Poison is a band that's occasionally lacked critical respect. Does that bother you?

I'M I don't even think about it. It is funny that when I go back and look at some of Poison's old videos I realize that we're not doing anything like they were then. It's all really different. I'm very confident both in my ability and in this band, so whatever Poison went through in the past doesn't really affect me. We've made a great record this time, and to me that's all that matters.

"All my influences show up in my playing, but I grew up as a hard rock kid."

HP: You were able to work mostly on your own as a solo artist, but in Poison you've had to adapt to working with three other guys. Was that tough?

Me Yeah, it was. I think it presented some difficulties for everyone—not just me. I never intended to be part of a band. I was very happy doing my solo albums, and in fact I had just signed a deal with a major label for my next solo project. Before that, I had been on a guitar-oriented label that was really only interested in that side of my music. I wanted to focus more on the songs, not just my playing, so Poison gave me the chance to do that. I still hope to make that solo record some day, the album that will define me as a solo artist. But right now Poison is my main focus.

Poison on a long-term basis, or do you view this as sort of a transitional step for yourself?

I'm a very day-to-day person. I've tried to look ahead and plan things out,

but nothing ever seems to turn out the way I want. All I can say is that I'll be a member of Poison as long as I'm happy. I'm very excited about this album, and I'm looking forward to going on the road, and I already have some ideas for the next album. But who knows? If I ever got as unhappy as C.C. apparently was, I'd leave.

We know you want to be taken seriously as an artist but how do you respond to now being a Rock Star as part of Poison?

Really, I don't have any feelings about it. I haven't experienced it yet. Even on the road, I haven't allowed myself to get caught up in all that. What makes me happy is finally having the chance to make music that people actually get the chance to hear! My solo albums were on such a small label that nobody ever knew they were even out. I guess I'll deal with that rock star stuff when and if it occurs.

Poison's fans will react to you? After all, you are the "new guy".

record, so in that regard I am a little concerned about it. But if you mean do I care if they stand up and cheer when I come on stage, the answer is no. I think if they listen to the album, and watch the shows they'll see what I can do. I want to have a good relationship with the fans, but that will come in time, I hope.

We've heard you're a "studio rat" a guy who could just live in the recording studio. Is that true?

RK: Music is everything to me. Yeah, I could spend all my time in the recording studio; I love it in there. I know there are some musicians who only like to work in front of a crowd so they can feed off of their reactions. I can inspire myself. I enjoy the challenge of recording. It was really exciting going into the studio with Poison, knowing that for the first time in my life I'd have the time and the budget to really make some great music. I think we've done a very good job this time around. I believe this is the best album Poison's ever made, and I'm very proud to be a part of it.



# MOUNTAIN THE TELY

Pearl drums have long stood as the standard in the rock and roll industry. Odds are when you go to your next live concert and check out the kit of the headliner, the familiar "Pearl" logo will adorn the front of his bass drum. With that in mind, the company recently unveiled a "new" drum set called the "Hard Rock," which really isn't that new at all. This five piece set, featuring a single-mounted tom and two floor toms was the standard set-up for top drummers in the 1970s. But as flash replaced technique in the '80s, the five-

bal holder, a 12"x14" steel snare drum. A difference between the Export and the Export Pro is that the snare on the former features 8 lugs, while the latter's snare features 10 lugs.

**Pearl** has gone a long way towards making their new "Hard Rock" line state-of-the-art by including as standard equipment on the Export Pro, the new IMS (Integrated Mounting System)— Pearl's suspended tom mounting system. The IMS is designed to improve the tone and sustain of the mounted tom, while costing far less than similar cam and beater holder for lower inertia and greater control and speed. It also has a toothless beater angle adjuster for infinite beater angle adjustments. (And, hey, you all know how important it is to have a proper beater angle.)

The popular Pearl S-850 snare drum and the newly designed H-855 hi-hat stand (designed to be one of the smoothest on the market) come as standard equipment with all "Hard Rock" sets.

Both the Export Pro and the Export come in a wide variety of colors; the



piece set began being replaced by bigger, showier kit set ups. But now, old is new again as Pearl reintroduces the Export and the Export Pro "Hard Rock" 5 piece drum set.

Both the Export and the Export Pro sets are available in a 22" and 24" bass drum model, with the 24" being newly introduced in 1993. There's also the new CHB-88 bass drum mounted cym-

suspension systems. Pearl's stated goal is "to elevate the sound of the Export Pro above and beyond that of any competing drum set in its price range."

The Export Pro also features the newly designed C-855W double braced leg cymbal stand, which features an improved adjustable tilter. Another new feature is the P-855 bass drum pedal, which features a low mass aluminum

"Pro" in Smokey Chrome, Jet Black, Pure White, Stainless Steel, Yellow Flash, Deep Ocean, Wine Red, Ferrari Red and Atlantic Blue. The Export comes in Jet Black, Pure White and Cardinal Red.

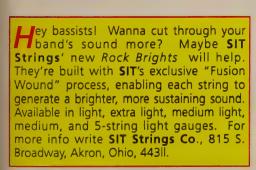
For more information about Pearl's new "Hard Rock" drum sets, contact: Pearl Corporation, 549 Metroplex Dr., Nashville, TN 37211.

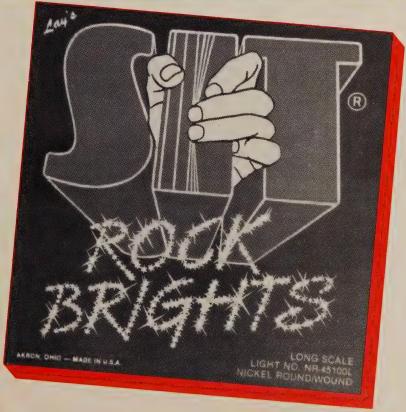
**Shure**'s popular *Beta* series of premium microphones now includes the new *Beta 87*, a super-cardioid hand-held condenser mic which maintains a rich, full-bodied sound even at very high monitor-volume levels. This, according to **Shure**, ensures unprecedented power and clarity of live vocal performance, with unsurpassed feedback rejection. The *87* also includes superior internal shock mounting, and a three-stage pop filter inside its dent-resistant hardened steel grille. The *Beta 87* will also be available in a wireless version, for the **Shure** *L Series LS24/Beta 87 wireless system*. For more info call 1-800-25-SHURE, or write **Shure Bros. Inc.**, 222 Hartrey Ave., Evanston, IL 60202-3696.





The BOSS HM-3 Hyper Metal Pedal is a souped-up version of the already classic HM-2 Heavy Metal Pedal Distortion Device, with more gain for greater power and presence. The HM-3 also features a Color Mix control with independent bass and treble controls, to give a wide range of tonal choices. It's designed for a powerful dynamic boost with accurate dynamic response, to deliver an edgy sound that cuts through like a knife—even at the heaviest distortion settings. The HM-3 lists for \$109.95. For more info write Roland Corp. US, BOSS Division, 7200 Dominion Circle, Los Angeles, CA 90040-3696.







BY ANNE LEIGHTON

# THE BEST IN HOME ENTERTAINMENT

aith No More's **Video Croissant** is out, and it's a "must have" for any Faith No More fan. The home video features interviews and behind-the scenes footage of the band, including clips from their Brazilian tour. Also in the package is a version of their early classic video, *We Care A Lot*. (\$19.98/Warner Reprise Video).

Two really cool rock and roll movies are **Singles** starring Soundgarden and Matt Dillon (\$94.99/Warner Video) and **High School Confidential** with 1950s bad boy Jerry Lee Lewis (\$14.98/Republic Pictures). One of Lewis' biggest keyboard heroes, Ray Charles, has a new home video **The Genius Of Soul** (\$19.98/Warner Reprise Video). David Di Pietro was Zakk Wylde's and Dave Sabo's guitar teacher, and he has lots of secrets available on **David Di Pietro's Rock Guitar Series** (\$31.95 with shipping and handling, c/o P.O. Box 5251, North Branch, NJ 08876 to Bad Ideas).

In addition to laserdiscs and VCRs there's a new movie viewing technology coming alive via the computer screen. It's called CD-ROM, and it originated in the 1980s in library computer systems because they hold so much information like encylopedias. By 1989 music and images could come alive on computer via CD-ROM. The first music-oriented CD-ROM available was Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. But it wasn't a video just images of information and paintings scanned in and out as the music played. In 1991 technology incorporated video action for the home computer. Now some of the major motion picture companies including Warner and Voyager have CD-ROM. And with laserdiscs taking up a comparatively bulky 12 inches, many videophiles are looking to store their films in as compact a space as possible. CD-ROM technology can save movies on computer discs. In fact Voyager recently premiered the Beatles A Hard Day's Night at the MacWorld Expo in San Francisco. Not only does the Voyager package include the movie, but also script and profiles of all the actors in

the film. Something fun that can be done with the CD-ROM technology is to find a popular line or character in the movie just by typing in the name. Let's say you're looking for "John Lennon" or "Paul's grandfather", just punch it in, and the computer will find every picture and dialogue of that character. Or you can just view the movie from start to finish. Just note that special software must be bought to use CD-ROM. After the computer, one needs a CD ROM drive which costs about \$500, and—if you have an IBM system—you need a sound card. And if you want to listen to it loud, get headphones!

There's some great movies available this month like Steven King's It (\$79.99/Warner Video) and Pet Semetary II with Edward Furlong (no sugg. retail/Paramount). Also check out Sneakers with River Phoenix (no sugg. retail/MCA UNIVERSAL), Trespass with Ice-T and Ice Cube (no sugg. retail/MCA Universal), Shannon Doherty's Freeze Frame (\$89.95/Columbia Tri Star) and Luke Perry's Terminal Bliss (\$89.99/Cannon). If you like kickboxing, intrigue and romance, check out C.I.A.:

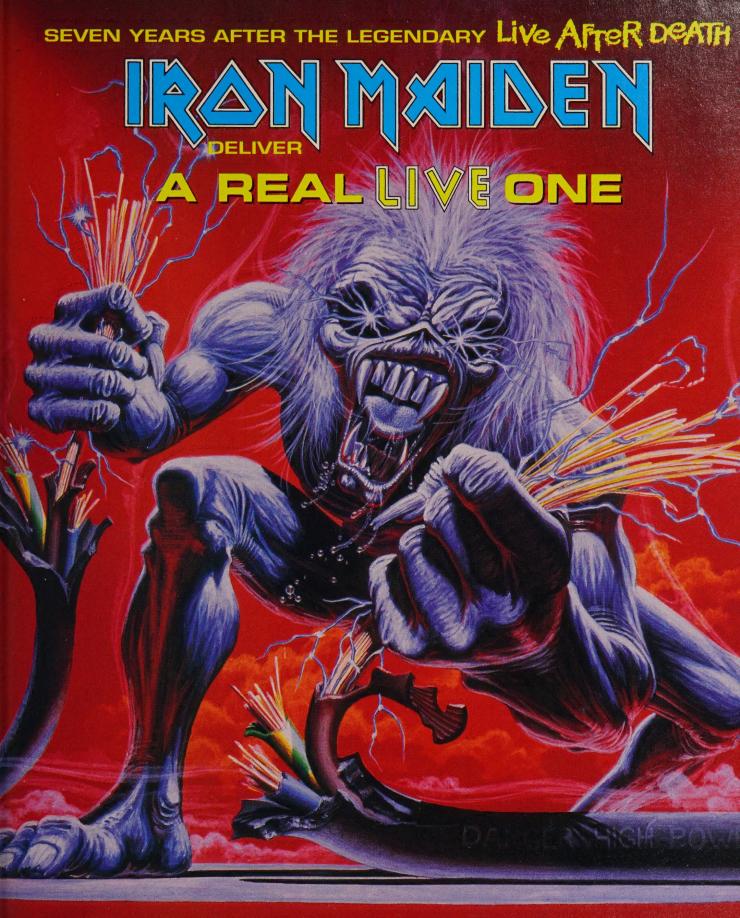
Cult flicks this month include several Doctor Who episodes including The Twin Dilemma and Cybermen: The Early Years (\$19.98 each/CBS FOX), The John Waters Archives box set which includes Desperate Living, Polyester and Hairspray (\$54.85/Columbia/Tri Star), Jessica Hahn's' Bikini Summer II (\$89.95/PM Home Video), and a Hitchhikers Guide To The Galaxy (\$34.98/CBS Fox), which if the movie distributors were smart would be sold for \$42.42, because according to the Hitchhikers' story, 42 is the answer!!!!

There are various sports videos out now, including some put out by Toon-Time videos like Hulk Hogan's All-Time Champ (\$12.98) and Rock'n'Wrestling (\$9.98), plus Swamp Thing, ProStars, G.I. Joe's Long Live Rock & Roll, Parts I and II, and more! (\$12.98 each). Blood, Sweat & Glory—The 1992 Summer Olympics also has conversation from many sports greats like tennis' Jimmy Connors and Martina Navratilova, boxing's Muhammed Ali, soccer's Pele and golf's Arnold Palmer explaining how they made it to the top(\$19.95/PolyGram Video). PolyGram



Code Name Alexa with Lorenzo Lamas, O.J. Simpson and Kathleen Kinmont (\$89.95/PM Entertainment) or the cartoon counterpart, Boris and Natasha: The Movie (\$89.95/Academy). Some movies with great acting include True Confessions with Robert DeNiro and Robert Duvall(\$19.98/MGM/UA), Basic Instinct/The Original Director's Cut with Sharon Stone and Michael "the president of Saigon Kick's record company" Douglas (\$49.98/Carolco Live Home video), Liar's Edge with Shannon "I bear Gene Simmons' children" Tweed (no sugg. retail/New Line Cinema) and The Last of The Mohicans with Daniel Day "I'm hot-Julia Roberts loves me" Lewis (no sugg. retail/20th Century Fox).

Video has two football videos, 1992 Dallas Cowboys: Super Bowl XXVII Champions—a Tribute (\$19.95/PolyGram Video) and The NFL Football Card Follies, a bloopers collection that comes with collectible blooper cards (\$19.95/PolyGram Video). Besides the Madonna movie, A League of their Own... (\$94.95/Columbia) there's the Documentary: A League Of Their Own about the real All-American Girls Professional Baseball League (\$14.95/Columbia-Tri Star). Workouts for everybody include Principles Of Martial Arts (\$14.95/Academy Entertainment), Blackbelt Steve DeMasco's Aerobic Self-Defense Workout (\$14.98/Parade Video). and Jennie Garth's Body In Progress (\$19.98/Strand).



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# P U L

The new album from

### WINGER

Featuring "Blind Revolution Mad" and "Down Incognito"

Produced by Mike Shipley • Co-Produced by Kip Winger

Management: Doug Thaler for Top Rock Development Corp.



You'll believe it when you hear it

